
Bell's Edition.

TITUS ANDRONICUS.

B Y

WILL. SHAKSPERE:

Printed Complete from the TEXT of

SAM. JOHNSON and GEO. STEEVENS,

And revised from the last Editions.

When Learning's triumph o'er her barb'rous foes
First rear'd the Stage, immortal SHAKSPERE rose;
Each change of many-colour'd life he drew,
Exhausted worlds, and then imagin'd new:
Existence saw him spurn her bounded reign,
And panting Time toil'd after him in vain:
His pow'rful strokes presiding Truth confess'd,
And unresisted Passion storm'd the breast.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

LONDON:

Printed for, and under the direction of,

JOHN BELL, British-Library, STRAND.

MDCCLXXXV.

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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE Fable AND Composition OF

TITUS ANDRONICUS.

IT is observable, that this play is printed in the quarto of 1611, with exactness equal to that of the other books of those times. The first edition was probably corrected by the author, so that here is very little room for conjecture or emendation ; and accordingly none of the editors have much molested this piece with officious criticism. JOHNSON.

This is one of those plays which I have always thought, with the better judges, ought not to be acknowledged in the list of Shakspeare's genuine pieces. And, perhaps, I may give a proof to strengthen this opinion, that may put the matter out of question. Ben Jonson, in the introduction to his *Bartholomew-Fair*, which made its first appearance in the year 1614, couples *Jeronymo* and *Andronicus* together in reputation, and speaks of them as plays then of twenty-five or thirty years standing. Consequently *Andronicus* must have been on the stage before Shakspeare left Warwickshire, to come and reside in London : and I never heard it so much as intimated, that he had turned his genius to stage-writing before he associated with the players, and became one of their body. However, that he afterwards introduced it a-new on the stage, with the addition

tion of his own masterly touches, is incontestible, and thence, I presume, grew his title to it. The diction in general, where he has not taken the pains to raise it, is even beneath that of the Three Parts of *Henry VI.* The story we are to suppose merely fictitious. Andronicus is a sur-name of pure Greek derivation. Tamora is neither mentioned by Ammianus Marcellinus, nor any body else that I can find. Nor had Rome, in the time of her emperors, any wars with the Goths that I know of: not till after the translation of the empire, I mean to Byzantium. And yet the scene of our play is laid at Rome, and Saturninus is elected to the empire at the capitol.

THEOBALD.

All the editors and critics agree with Mr. Theobald in supposing this play spurious. I see no reason for differing from them; for the colour of the style is wholly different from that of the other plays, and there is an attempt at regular versification, and artificial closes, not always inelegant, yet seldom pleasing. The barbarity of the spectacles, and the general massacre, which are here exhibited, can scarcely be conceived tolerable to any audience: yet we are told by Jonson, that they were not only borne, but praised. That Shakspeare wrote any part, though Theobald declares it *incontestible*, I see no reason for believing.

JOHNSON.

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Dramatis Personae.

MEN.

SATURNINUS, *Son to the late Emperor of Rome, and afterwards declared Emperor himself.*

BASSIANUS, *Brother to Saturninus, in Love with Lavinia.*

TITUS ANDRONICUS, *a noble Roman, General against the Goths.*

MARCUS ANDRONICUS, *Tribune of the People, and Brother to Titus.*

MARCUS,
QUINTUS, } *Sons to Titus Andronicus.*
LUCIUS,
MUTIUS,

Young LUCIUS, a Boy, Son to Lucius.

PUBLIUS, *Son to Marcus the Tribune, and Nephew to Titus Andronicus.*

SEMPRONIUS.

ALARBUS,
CHIRON, } *Sons to Tamora.*
DEMETRIUS,

AARON, *a Moor, belov'd by Tamora.*
Captain from Titus's Camp.

ÆMILIUS, *a Messenger.*

Goths, and Romans.

Clown.

WOMEN.

TAMORA, *Queen of the Goths, and afterwards married to Saturninus.*

LAVINIA, *Daughter to Titus Andronicus.*

Nurse, with a Black-a-moor Child.

Senators, Judges, Officers, Soldiers, and other Attendants.

SCENE, *Rome; and the Country near it.*



TITUS ANDRONICUS.

ACT I. SCENE I.

before the Capitol in Rome. Enter the Tribunes and Senators aloft, as in the Senate. Then enter SATURNINUS and his Followers, at one Door; and BASSIANUS and his Followers, at the other; with Drum and Colours.

Saturninus.

NOBLE patricians, patrons of my right,
Defend the justice of my cause with arms;
And, countrymen, my loving followers,
Lead my successive title with your swords:
I am his first-born son, that was the last
That wore the imperial diadem of Rome;
Then let my father's honours live in me,
Nor wrong mine age with this indignity.

Bas.

Bas. Romans,—friends, followers, favourers
my right,—

If ever Bassianus, Cæsar's son,
Were gracious in the eyes of royal Rome,
Keep then this passage to the Capitol;
And suffer not dishonour to approach
The imperial seat, to virtue consecrate,
To justice, continence, and nobility;
But let desert in pure election shine;
And, Romans, fight for freedom in your choice.

Enter MARCUS ANDRONICUS aloft, with the Crown.

Mar. Princes, that strive by factions, and by
friends,

Ambitiously for rule and empery!
Know, that the people of Rome, for whom we stand
A special party, have, by common voice,
In election for the Roman empery,
Chosen Andronicus, surnamed Pius
For many good and great deserts to Rome;
A nobler man, a braver warrior,
Lives not this day within the city walls:
He by the senate is accited home,
From weary wars against the barbarous Goths;
That, with his sons, a terror to our foes,
Hath yok'd a nation strong, train'd up in arms.
Ten years are spent, since first he undertook
This cause of Rome, and chastised with arms
Our enemies' pride: Five times he hath return'd

Bleeding

Bleeding to Rome, bearing his valiant sons
In coffins from the field ;——

And now at last laden with honour's spoils,
Returns the good Andronicus to Rome,
Renowned Titus, flourishing in arms.

Let us entreat,—By honour of his name,
Whom, worthily, you would have now succeed, 40

And in the Capitol and senate's right,

Whom you pretend to honour and adore,——

That you withdraw you, and abate your strength ;

Dismiss your followers, and, as suitors should,

Plead your deserts in peace and humbleness.

Sat. How fair the tribune speaks to calm my
thoughts !

Bas. Marcus Andronicus, so I do affy

In thy uprightness and integrity,

And so I love and honour thee, and thine,

Thy noble brother Titus, and his sons, 50

And her, to whom our thoughts are humbled all,

Gracious Lavinia, Rome's rich ornament,

That I will here dismiss my loving friends ;

And to my fortunes, and the people's favour,

Commit my cause in balance to be weigh'd.

[*Exeunt Soldiers.*]

Sat. Friends, that have been thus forward in my
right,

I thank you all, and here dismiss you all ;

And to the love and favour of my country

Commit myself, my person, and the cause :

Rome, be as just and gracious unto me, 60

As

As I am content and kind to thee.—

Open the gates and let me in.

Bas. Tribunes! and me, a poor competitor.

[They go up into the Senate-House.]

SCENE II.

Enter a Captain.

Capt. Romans, make way; the good Andronicus,
Patron of virtue, Rome's best champion,
Successful in the battles that he fights,
With honour and with fortune is return'd,
From where he circumscribed with his sword,
And brought to yoke, the enemies of Rome.

*Sound Drums and Trumpets, and then enter MUTIUS and
MARCUS: after them, two Men bearing a Coffin cover'd
with black; then QUINTUS and LUCIUS. After
them TITUS ANDRONICUS; and then TAMORA,
the Queen of Goths, ALARBUS, CHIRON, and DE-
METRIUS, with AARON the Moor, Prisoners; Sol-
diers, and other Attendants. They set down the Coffin,
and TITUS speaks.*

Tit. Hail, Rome, victorious in thy mourning
weeds!

Lo, as the bark, that hath discharg'd her fraught,
Returns with precious lading to the bay,
From whence at first she weigh'd her anchorage,
Cometh

Cometh Andronicus, bound with laurel boughs,
 To re-salute his country with his tears;
 Tears of true joy for his return to Rome.—
 Thou great defender of this Capitol,
 Stand gracious to the rites that we intend!
 Romans, of five and twenty valiant sons,
 Half of the number that king Priam had, 89
 Behold the poor remains, alive, and dead!
 These, that survive, let Rome reward with love;
 These, that I bring unto their latest home,
 With burial among their ancestors:
 Here Goths have given me leave to sheath my
 sword.

Titus, unkind, and careless of thine own,
 Why suffer'st thou thy sons, unburied yet,
 To hover on the dreadful shore of Styx?—
 Make way to lay them by their brethren.

[*They open the Tomb.*]

There greet in silence, as the dead were wont, 90
 And sleep in peace, slain in your country's wars!
 O sacred receptacle of my joys,
 Sweet cell of virtue and nobility,
 How many sons of mine hast thou in store,
 That thou wilt never render to me more?

Luc. Give us the proudest prisoner of the Goths,
 That we may hew his limbs, and, on a pile,
Ad manes fratrum sacrifice his flesh,
 Before this earthly prison of their bones;
 That so the shadows be not unappeas'd, 100
 Nor we disturb'd with prodigies on earth.

Tit.

Tit. I give him you ; the noblest that survives,
The eldest son of this distressed queen.

Tam. Stay, Roman brethren,—Gracious conqueror,
Victorious Titus, rue the tears I shed,
A mother's tears in passion for her son :
And, if thy sons were ever dear to thee,
O, think my son to be as dear to me.
Sufficeth not, that we are brought to Rome,
To beautify thy triumphs, and return,
Captive to thee, and to thy Roman yoke ?
But must my sons be slaughter'd in the streets,
For valiant doings in their country's cause ?
O ! if to fight for king and common weal
Were piety in thine, it is in these ;
Andronicus, stain not thy tomb with blood ;
Wilt thou draw near the nature of the gods ?
Draw near them then in being merciful :
Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge ;
Thrice-noble Titus, spare my first-born son.

Tit. Patient yourself, madam, and pardon me.
These are their brethren, whom you Goths behold
Alive, and dead ; and for their brethren slain,
Religiously they ask a sacrifice :
To this your son is mark'd ; and die he must,
To appease their groaning shadows that are gone.

Luc. Away with him ! and make a fire straight ;
And with our swords, upon a pile of wood,
Let's hew his limbs, 'till they be clean consum'd.

[*Exeunt* MUTIUS, MARCUS, QUINTUS,
and LUCIUS, with ALARBUS.

Tam.

Tam. O cruel, irreligious piety!

130

Chi. Was ever Scythia half so barbarous?

Dem. Oppose not Scythia to ambitious Rome.

Alarbus goes to rest; and we survive

To tremble under Titus' threatening look.

Then, madam, stand resolv'd; but hope withal,

The self-same gods, that arm'd the queen of Troy,

With opportunity of sharp revenge

Upon the Thracian tyrant in his tent,

May favour Tamora, the queen of Goths

(When Goths were Goths, and Tamora was queen),

To quit the bloody wrongs upon her foes.

141

Enter MUTIUS, MARCUS, QUINTUS, and LUCIUS.

Luc. See, lord and father, how we have perform'd

Our Roman rites: Alarbus' limbs are lopp'd,

And entrails feed the sacrificing fire,

Whose smoke, like incense, doth perfume the sky.

Remaineth nought, but to inter our brethren,

And with loud 'larums welcome them to Rome.

Tit. Let it be so; and let Andronicus

Make this his latest farewell to their souls.

[*Then sound Trumpets, and lay the Coffins in the Tomb.*

In peace and honour rest you here, my sons; 150

Rome's readiest champions, repose you here,

Secure from worldly chances and mishaps!

Here lurks no treason, here no envy swells,

Here grow no damned grudges; here no storm,

No noise, but silence and eternal sleep:

Enter LAVINIA

In peace and honour rest you here, my sons!

Lav. In peace and honour live lord Titus long;
My noble lord and father, live in fame!

Lo! at this tomb my tributary tears
I render, for my brethren's obsequies;
And at thy feet I kneel, with tears of joy
Shed on the earth, for thy return to Rome:
O, bless me here with thy victorious hand,
Whose fortune Rome's best citizens applaud.

Tit. Kind Rome, that hast thus lovingly reserv'd
The cordial of mine age, to glad my heart!—
Lavinia, live; out-live thy father's days,
And fame's eternal date, for virtue's praise!

Mar. Long live lord Titus, my beloved brother,
Gracious tritumpher in the eyes of Rome!

Tit. Thanks, gentle tribune, noble brother Marcus.

Mar. And welcome nephews, from successful
wars,

You that survive, and you that sleep in fame.
Fair lords, your fortunes are alike in all,
That in your country's service drew your swords;
But safer triumph is this funeral pomp,
That hath aspir'd to Solon's happiness,
And triumphs over chance, in honour's bed.—
Titus Andronicus, the people of Rome,
Whose friend in justice thou hast ever been,
Send thee by me, their tribune, and their trust,
This palliament of white and spotless hue;

And

And name thee in election for the empire,
With these our late-deceased emperor's sons :
Be *candidatus* then, and put it on,
And help to set a head on headless Rome.

Tit. A better head her glorious body fits,
Than his, that shakes for age and feebleness :
What ! should I don this robe, and trouble you ?

Be chose with proclamations to-day ; 190

To-morrow yield up rule, resign my life,
And set abroad new business for you all ?
Rome, I have been thy soldier forty years,
And led my country's strength successfully ;
And buried one and twenty valiant sons,
Knighted in field, slain manfully in arms,
In right and service of their noble country :

Give me a staff of honour for mine age,

But not a sceptre to control the world :

Upright he held it, lords, that held it last. 200

Mar. Titus, thou shalt obtain and ask the empery.

Sat. Proud and ambitious tribune, canst thou
tell ?—

Tit. Patience, prince Saturninus.—

Sat. Romans, do me right ;

Patricians, draw your swords, and sheath them not.

'Till Saturninus be Rome's emperor :—

Andronicus, 'would thou were ship'd to hell,

Rather than rob me of the people's hearts.

Luc. Proud Saturninus ? interrupter of the good

That noble-minded Titus means to thee !— 210

Bij

Tit.

Tit. Content thee, prince ; I will restore to thee
The people's hearts, and wean them from themselves.

Bas. Andronicus, I do not flatter thee,
But honour thee, and will do 'till I die :
My faction, if thou strengthen with thy friends,
I will most thankful be : and thanks, to men
Of noble minds, is honourable meed.

Tit. People of Rome, and people's tribunes here,
I ask your voices, and your suffrages ;
Will you bestow them friendly on Andronicus ? 220

Mar. To gratify the good Andronicus,
And gratulate his safe return to Rome,
The people will accept who he admits.

Tit. Tribunes, I thank you : and this suit I make,
That you create your emperor's eldest son,
Lord Saturnine ; whose virtues will, I hope,
Reflect on Rome, as Titan's rays on earth,
And ripen justice in this common-weal :
Then if you will elect by my advice,
Crown him, and say,—*Long live our emperor !* 230

Mar. With voices and applause of every sort,
Patricians, and plebeians, we create
Lord Saturninus, Rome's great emperor ;
And say,—*Long live our emperor Saturnine !*

[*Along Flourish, till they come down.*]

Sat. Titus Andronicus, for thy favours done
To us in our election this day,
I give thee thanks in part of thy deserts,
And will with deeds requite thy gentleness :
And, for an onset, Titus, to advance

Thy

Thy name, and honourable family, 240
 Lavinia will I make my emperess,
 Rome's royal mistress, mistress of my heart,
 And in the sacred Pantheon her espouse :
 Tell me, Andronicus, doth this motion please thee ?

Tit. It doth, my worthy lord ; and, in this match,
 I hold me highly honour'd of your grace :
 And here, in sight of Rome, to Saturnine,—
 King and commander of our common-weal,
 The wide world's emperor,—do I consecrate 250
 My sword, my chariot, and my prisoners ;
 Presents well worthy Rome's imperial lord :
 Receive them then, the tribute that I owe,
 Mine honour's ensigns humbled at thy feet.

Sat. Thanks, noble Titus, father of my life !
 How proud I am of thee, and of thy gifts,
 Rome shall record ; and, when I do forget
 The least of these unspeakable deserts,
 Romans, forget your fealty to me.

Tit. Now, madam, are you prisoner to an emperor ;
 [To TAMORA.]

To him, that for your honour and your state, 260
 Will use you nobly, and your followers.

Sat. A goodly lady, trust me ; of the hue
 That I would choose, were I to choose anew.—
 Clear up, fair queen, that cloudy countenance ;
 Though chance of war hath wrought this change of
 cheer,

Thou com'st not to be made a scorn in Rome :
 Princely shall be thy usage every way.

Rest on my word, and let not discontent
Daunt all your hopes : Madam, he comforts you,
Can make you greater than the queen of Goths.—
Lavinia, you are not displeas'd with this ? 271

Lav. Not I, my lord ; sith true nobility
Warrants these words in princely courtesy.

Sat. Thanks, sweet Lavinia.—Romans, let us go :
Ransomless here we set our prisoners free ;
Proclaim our honours, lords, with trump and drum.

Bas. Lord Titus, by your leave, this maid is mine.

[*Seizing LAVINIA.*

Tit. How, sir ? Are you in earnest then, my lord ?

Bas. Ay, noble Titus ; and resolv'd withal,
To do myself this reason and this right. 280

[*The Emperor courts TAMORA in dumb shew.*

Mar. *Suum cuique* is our Roman justice :
This prince in justice seizeth but his own.

Luc. And that he will, and shall, if Lucius live.

Tit. Traitors, avaunt ! Where is the emperor's
guard ?

Treason, my lord ; Lavinia is surpris'd.

Sat. Surpris'd ! By whom ?

Bas. By him that justly may
Bear his betroth'd from all the world away.

[*Exit BASSIANUS with LAVINIA.*

Mut. Brothers, help to convey her hence away,
And with my sword I'll keep this door safe. 290

Tit. Follow, my lord, and I'll soon bring her
back.

Mut. My lord, you pass not here.

Tit. What! villain boy,

Barr'st me my way in Rome? [*TITUS kills MUT.*

Mut. Help, Lucius, help!

Luc. My lord, you are unjust, and more than so;
In wrongful quarrel you have slain your son.

Tit. Not thou, nor he, are any sons of mine;
My sons would never so dishonour me:

Traitor, restore Lavinia to the emperor. 300

Luc. Dead, if you will; but not to be his wife,
That is another's lawful promis'd love.

Sat. No, Titus, no; the emperor needs her not,
Nor her, nor thee, nor any of thy stock:

I'll trust by leisure, him that mocks me once;

Thee never, nor thy traiterous haughty sons,

Confederates all thus to dishonour me.

Was there none else in Rome to make a stale of,

But Saturnine? Full well, Andronicus,

Agree these deeds with that proud brag of thine, 310

That said'st, I begg'd the empire at thy hands.

Tit. O monstrous! what reproachful words are
these?

Sat. But go thy ways; go, give that changing
piece,

To him that flourish'd for her with his sword:

A valiant son-in-law thou shalt enjoy;

One fit to bandy with thy lawless sons,

To ruffle in the commonwealth of Rome.

Tit. These words are razors to my wounded
heart.

Sat.

Tit.

Sat. And therefore, lovely Tamora, queen of
Goths,—

319

That, like the stately Phœbe 'mong her nymphs,
Dost over-shine the gallant'st dames of Rome,—
If thou be pleas'd with this my sudden choice,
Behold, I choose thee, Tamora, for my bride,
And will create thee emperess of Rome.

Speak, queen of Goths, dost thou applaud my
choice?

And here I swear by all the Romans Gods,—
Sith priest and holy water are so near,
And tapers burn so bright, and every thing
In readiness for Hymeneus stands,—

I will not re-salute the streets of Rome,
Or climb my palace, 'till from forth this place
I lead espous'd my bride along with me.

339

Tam. And here, in sight of heaven to Rome I
swear,

If Saturnine advance the queen of Goths,
She will a handmaid be to his desires,
A loving nurse, a mother to his youth.

Sat. Ascend, fair queen, Pantheon : Lords, ac-
company

Your noble emperor, and his lovely bride,
Sent by the heavens for prince Saturnine,
Whose wisdom hath her fortune conquered :
There shall we consummate our spousal rites.

340

[*Exeunt.**Manet*

Manet TITUS ANDRONICUS.

Tit. I am not bid to wait upon this bride ;—
Titus, when wert thou wont to walk alone,
Dishonour'd thus, and challenged of wrongs ?

Enter MARCUS ANDRONICUS, LUCIUS, QUINTUS,
and MARCUS.

Mar. O, Titus, see, O, see, what thou hast done !
In a bad quarrel slain a virtuous son.

Tit. No, foolish tribune, no ; no son of mine,—
Nor thou, nor these, confederates in the deed
That hath dishonour'd all our family ;
Unworthy brother, and unworthy sons ! 350

Luc. But let us give him burial, as becomes ;
Give Mutius burial with our brethren.

Tit. Traitors, away ! he rests not in this tomb.
This monument five hundred years hath stood,
Which I have sumptuously re-edified ;
Here none but soldiers, and Rome's servitors,
Repose in fame ; none basely slain in brawls :—
Bury him where you can, he comes not here.

Mar. My lord, this is impiety in you :
My nephew Mutius' deeds do plead for him ; 360
He must be buried with his brethren.

[TITUS' Sons speak.

Sons. And shall, or him we will accompany.

Tit. And shall ? What villain was it spoke that
word ?

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choice?

And here I swear by all the Romans Gods,—
Sith priest and holy water are so near,
And tapers burn so bright, and every thing
In readiness for Hymeneus stands,—
I will not re-salute the streets of Rome, 330
Or climb my palace, 'till from forth this place
I lead espous'd my bride along with me.

Tam. And here, in sight of heaven to Rome I
swear,

If Saturnine advance the queen of Goths,
She will a handmaid be to his desires,
A loving nurse, a mother to his youth.

Sat. Ascend, fair queen, Pantheon: Lords, ac-
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Your noble emperor, and his lovely bride,
Sent by the heavens for prince Saturnine,
Whose wisdom hath her fortune conquered: 340
There shall we consummate our spousal rites.

[*Exeunt.*

Manet

Act I.

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[TITUS' Son speaks.

Quin.

Quin. He that would vouch't in any place but here.

Tit. What, would you bury him in my despight?

Mar. No, noble Titus; but entreat of thee
To pardon Mutius, and to bury him.

Tit. Marcus, even thou hast struck upon my crest.
And, with these boys, mine honour thou hast
wounded.

My foes I do repute you every one;

370

So trouble me no more, but get you gone.

Luc. He is not with himself; let us withdraw.

Quin. Not I, till Mutius' bones be buried.

[*The Brother and the Sons kneel.*]

Mar. Brother, for in that name doth nature
plead.

Quin. Father, and in that name doth nature speak.

Tit. Speak thou no more, if all the rest will
speed.

Mar. Renowned Titus, more than half my soul,—

Luc. Dear father, soul and substance of us
all,—

Mar. Suffer thy brother Marcus to inter
His noble nephew here in virtue's nest,
That died in honour and Lavinia's cause.
Thou art a Roman, be not barbarous.
The Greeks, upon advice, did bury Ajax
That slew himself; and wise Laertes' son
Did graciously plead for his funerals:
Let not young Mutius then, that was thy joy,
Be barr'd his entrance here.

380

Act I.

Tit.

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Tit. Rise, Marcus, rise :—

The dismaldest day is this, that e'er I saw,
To be dishonour'd by my sons in Rome!— 390
Well, bury him, and bury me the next.

[*They put him in the Tomb.*]

Luc. There lie thy bones, sweet Mutius, with thy
friends.

Till we with trophies do adorn thy tomb!—

[*They all kneel and say ;*

No man shed tears for noble Mutius ;
He lives in fame, that dy'd in virtue's cause.

Mar. My lord,——to step out of these dreary
dumps,—

How comes it, that the subtle queen of Goths
Is of a sudden thus advanc'd in Rome ?

Tit. I know not, Marcus ; but, I know, it is ;
If by device, or no, the heavens can tell ; 400

Is she not then beholden to the man
That brought her for this high good turn so far ?
Yes, and will nobly him remunerate.

Flourish. *Re-enter the Emperor, TAMORA, CHIRON,*
DEMETRIUS, with AARON the Moor, at one Door :
At the other Door, BASSIANUS and LAVINIA, with
others.

Sat. So, Bassianus, you have play'd your prize ;
God give you joy, sir, of your gallant bride.

Bas. And you of yours, my lord : I say no more,
Nor wish no less ; and so I take my leave.

Sat.

Sat. Traitor, if Rome have law, or we have power,

Thou and thy faction shall repent this rape.

Bas. Rape, call you it, my lord, to seize my own,
My true betrothed love, and now my wife? 411

But let the laws of Rome determine all;
Mean while I am possess'd of that is mine.

Sat. 'Tis good, sir: You are very short with us;
But, if we live, we'll be as sharp with you.

Bas. My lord, what I have done, as best I may,
Answer I must, and shall do with my life.

Only thus much I give your grace to know,—

By all the duties which I owe to Rome,

This noble gentleman, lord Titus here,

Is in opinion, and in honour, wrong'd;

That, in the rescue of Lavinia,

With his own hand did slay his youngest son,

In zeal to you, and highly mov'd to wrath

To be control'd in that he frankly gave:

Receive him then to favour, Saturnine;

That hath express'd himself, in all his deeds,

A father, and a friend, to thee, and Rome. 420

Tit. Prince Bassianus, leave to plead my deeds;

'Tis thou, and those, that have dishonour'd me: 430

Rome and the righteous heavens be my judge,

How I have lov'd and honour'd Saturnine!

Tam. My worthy lord, if ever Tamora

Were gracious in those princely eyes of thine,

Then hear me speak, indifferently for all;

And at my suit, sweet, pardon what is past.

Act II

TITUS ANDRONICUS.

Scene 3.



M^{rs} WELLS in the Character of LAVINIA.

Under your patience gentle Empress,

Printed for John Bell British Library Strand London Aug^d 24th 1785.

At I.

Sat.

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Sat. What, madam ! be dishonour'd openly,
And basely put it up without revenge ?

Tam. Not so, my lord ; The gods of Rome fore-
fend,

I should be author to dishonour you ! 440

But, on mine honour, dare I undertake
For good lord Titus' innocence in all,
Whose fury, not dissembled, speaks his griefs :
Then, at my suit, look graciously on him ;
Lose not so noble a friend on vain suppose,
Nor with sour looks afflict his gentle heart.—

My lord, be rul'd by me, be won at last,
Dissemble all your griefs and discontents :
You are but newly planted in your throne ;
Lest then the people, and patricians too,
Upon a just survey, take Titus' part ;
And so supplant us for ingratitude
(Which Rome reputes to be a heinous sin),
Yield at entreats, and then let me alone :
I'll find a day to massacre them all,
And raze their faction, and their family,
The cruel father, and his traiterous sons,
To whom I sued for my dear son's life ;
And make them know, what 'tis to let a
queen
Kneel in the streets, and beg for grace in
vain.—

[*Aside.*]

Come, come, sweet emperor,—come, Andronicus,—
Take up this good old man, and cheer the heart
That dies in tempest of thy angry frown. 463

C

Sat.

Sat. Rise, Titus, rise; my emperess hath prevail'd.

Tit. I thank your majesty, and her, my lord.
These words, these looks, infuse new life in me.

Tam. Titus, I am incorporate in Rome,
A Roman now adopted happily,
And must advise the emperor for his good.
This day all quarrels die, Andronicus;— 470
And let it be mine honour, good my lord,
That I have reconcil'd your friends and you.—
For you, prince Bassianus, I have past
My word and promise to the emperor,
That you will be more mild and tractable.—
And fear not, lords,—and you, Lavinia;—
By my advice, all humbled on your knees,
You shall ask pardon of his majesty.

Luc. We do; and vow to heaven, and to his high-
ness,

That what we did, was mildly, as we might, 480
Tend'ring our sister's honour, and our own.

Mar. That on mine honour here I do protest.

Sat. Away, and talk not; trouble us no more.—

Tam. Nay, nay, sweet emperor, we must all be
friends:

The tribune and his nephews kneel for grace;
I will not be denied. Sweet heart, look back.

Sat. Marcus, for thy sake, and thy brother's here,
And at my lovely Tamora's entreats,
I do remit these young men's heinous faults.
Stand up. 490

Lavinia, though you left me like a churl,

I found a friend; and sure as death I swore,
I would not part a bachelor from the priest.
Come, if the emperor's court can feast two brides,
You are my guest, Lavinia, and your friends:—
This day shall be a love-day, Tamora.

Tit. To-morrow, an it please your majesty,
To hunt the panther and the hart with n
With horn and hound, we'll give your grace *bon-jour*.

Sat. Be it so, Titus, and gramercy too. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT II. SCENE I.

Before the Palace. Enter AARON alone.

Aaron.

Now climbeth Tamora Olympus' top,
Safe out of fortune's shot; and sits aloft,
Secure of thunder's crack, or lightning flash;
Advanc'd above pale envy's threat'ning reach.
As when the golden sun salutes the morn,
And, having gilt the ocean with his beams,
Gallops the zodiack in his glistening coach,
And overlooks the highest-peering hills;
So Tamora.—

Upon her wit doth earthly honour wait,
And virtue stoops and trembles at her frown.
Then, Aaron, arm thy heart, and fit thy thoughts,
To mount aloft with thy imperial mistress,

C ij

And

And mount her pitch; whom thou in triumph long
 Hast prisoner held, fetter'd in amorous chains;
 And faster bound to Aaron's charming eyes,
 Than is Prometheus ty'd to Caucasus.
 Away with slavish weeds, and idle thoughts!
 I will be bright, and shine in pearl and gold,
 To wait upon this new-made emperess. 20
 To wait, said I? to wanton with this queen,
 This goddess, this Semiramis;—this queen,
 This syren, that will charm Rome's Saturnine,
 And see his shipwreck, and his common-weal's.
 Holla! what storm is this?

Enter CHIRON, and DEMETRIUS, braving.

Dem. Chiron, thy years want wit, thy wit wants
 edge,

And manners, to intrude where I am grac'd;
 And may, for aught thou know'st, affected be.

Chi. Demetrius, thou dost over-ween in all;
 And so in this, to bear me down with braves. 30
 'Tis not the difference of a year, or two,
 Makes me less gracious, or thee more fortunate:
 I am as able, and as fit, as thou,
 To serve, and to deserve my mistress' grace;
 And that my sword upon thee shall approve,
 And plead my passions for Lavinia's love.

Aar. Clubs, clubs!—These lovers will not keep
 the peace.

Dem. Why, boy, although our mother, unadvis'd,
 Gave you a dancing rapier by your side, 39

Are

Are you so desperate grown, to threat your friends?
Go to; have your lath glu'd within your sheath,
'Till you know better how to handle it.

Chi. Mean while, sir, with the little skill I have,
Full well shalt thou perceive how much I dare.

Dem. Ay, boy, grow ye so brave? [*They draw.*

Aar. Why, how now, lords?

So near the emperor's palace dare you draw,
And maintain such a quarrel openly?
Full well I wot the ground of all this grudge;
I would not for a million of gold,
The cause were known to them it most concerns:
Nor would your noble mother, for much more,
Be so dishonour'd in the court of Rome.

For shame, put up.

Chi. Not I; 'till I have sheath'd
My rapier in his bosom, and, withal,
Thrust these reproachful speeches down his throat,
That he hath breath'd in my dishonour here.

Dem. For that I am prepar'd and full resolv'd,—
Foul-spoken coward! that thunder'st with thy tongue,
And with thy weapon nothing dar'st perform.

Aar. Away, I say.—

Now by the gods, that warlike Goths adore,
This petty brabble will undo us all.
Why, lords,—and think you not how dangerous
It is to jut upon a prince's right?

What, is Lavinia then become so loose,
Or Bassianus so degenerate,
That for her love such quarrels may be broach'd,

Without controlment, justice, or revenge ? 70
 Young lords, beware !—an should the emperess know
 This discord's ground, the musick would not please.

Chi. I care not, I, knew she and all the world ;
 I love Lavinia more than all the world.

Dem. Youngling, learn thou to make some meaner
 choice :

Lavinia is thine elder brother's hope.

Aar. Why, are ye mad ? or know ye not, in Rome
 How furious and impatient they be,
 And cannot brook competitors in love ?
 I tell you, lords, you do but plot your deaths 80
 By this device.

Chi. Aaron, a thousand deaths would I propose,
 To achieve her I do love.

Aar. To achieve her !—How ?

Dem. Why mak'st thou it so strange ?
 She is a woman, therefore may be woo'd ;
 She is a woman, therefore may be won ;
 She is Lavinia, therefore must be lov'd.
 What, man ! more water glideth by the mill
 Than wots the miller of ; and easy it is 90
 Of a cut loaf to steal a shive, we know :
 Though Bassianus be the emperor's brother,
 Better than he have yet worn Vulcan's badge.

Aar. Ay, and as good as Saturninus, may. [*Aside.*]

Dem. Then why should he despair, that knows to
 court it

With words, fair looks, and liberality ?
 What, hast thou not full often struck a doe,

And

And borne her cleanly by the keeper's nose?

Aar. Why then, it seems, some certain snatch or so
Would serve your turns. 100

Chi. Ay, so the turn were serv'd.

Dem. Aaron, thou hast hit it.

Aar. 'Would you had hit it too;
Then should not we be tir'd with this ado.
Why, hark ye, hark ye,—And are you such fools,
To square for this? Would it offend you then
That both should speed?

Chi. 'Faith, not me.

Dem. Nor me, so I were one.

Aar. For shame, be friends; and join for that you
jar. 110

'Tis policy and stratagem must do
That you affect; and so must you resolve;
That what you cannot, as you would, achieve,
You must perforce accomplish as you may.
Take this of me, Lucrece was not more chaste
Than this Lavinia, Bassianus' love.

A speedier course than lingering languishment
Must we pursue, and I have found the path.

My lords, a solemn hunting is in hand;
There will the lovely Roman ladies troop: 120

The forest walks are wide and spacious;

And many unfrequented plots there are,

Fitted by kind for rape and villainy:

Single you thither then this dainty doe,

And strike her home by force, if not by words:

This way, or not at all, stand you in hope.

Come,

Come, come, our emperess, with her sacred wit,
 To villainy and vengeance consecrate,
 We will acquaint with all that we intend ;
 And she shall file our engines with advice, 130
 That will not suffer you to square yourselves,
 But to your wishes' height advance you both.
 The emperor's court is like the house of fame,
 The palace full of tongues, of eyes, of ears :
 The woods are ruthless, dreadful, deaf, and dull ;
 There speak, and strike, brave boys, and take your
 turns :

There serve your lust, shadow'd from heaven's eye,
 And revel in Lavinia's treasury.

Chi. Thy counsel, lad, smells of no cowardice.

Dem. Sit fas aut nefas, 'till I find the stream 140
 To cool this heat, a charm to calm these fits,
Per Styga, per Manes vehor.— [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

*Changes to a Forest. Enter TITUS ANDRONICUS
 and his three Sons, with Hounds and Horns, and
 MARCUS.*

Tit. The hunt is up, the morn is bright and grey,
 The fields are fragrant, and the woods are green :
 Uncouple here, and let us make a bay,
 And wake the emperor, and his lovely bride,
 And rouse the prince ; and ring a hunter's peal,
 That all the court may echo with the noise.

Sons,

Sons, let it be your charge, as it is ours,
To tend the emperor's person carefully : 150
I have been troubled in my sleep this night,
But dawning day new comfort hath inspir'd.

*Here a Cry of Hounds, and Wind Horns in a Peal : then
enter SATURNINUS, TAMORA, BASSIANUS, LA-
VINIA, CHIRON, DEMETRIUS, and their Attendants.*

Tit. Many good morrows to your majesty ;—
Madam, to you as many and as good !—
I promised your grace a hunter's peal.

Sat. And you have rung it lustily, my lords,
Somewhat too early for new-married ladies.

Bas. Lavinia, how say you ?

Lav. I say, no ;

I have been broad awake two hours and more. 160

Sat. Come on then, horse and chariots let us have,
And to our sport :—Madam, now ye shall see
Our Roman hunting. [To TAMORA.

Mar. I have dogs, my lord,
Will rouse the proudest panther in the chase,
And climb the highest promontory top.

Tit. And I have horse will follow where the game
Makes way, and run like swallows o'er the plain.

Dem. Chiron, we hunt not, we, with horse nor
hound, 169

But hope to pluck a dainty doe to ground. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.

A desert Part of the Forest. Enter AARON alone.

Aar. He, that had wit, would think, that I had
none,

To bury so much gold under a tree,
And never after to inherit it.
Let him, that thinks of me so abjectly,
Know, that this gold must coin a stratagem;
Which, cunningly effected, will beget
A very excellent piece of villainy:
And so repose, sweet gold, for their unrest,
That have their alms out of the empress' chest.

Enter TAMORA.

Tam. My lovely Aaron, wherefore look'st thou
sad, 180

When every thing doth make a gleeful boast?
The birds chaunt melody on every bush;
The snake lies rolled in the cheerful sun;
The green leaves quiver with the cooling wind,
And make a chequer'd shadow on the ground:
Under their sweet shade, Aaron, let us sit,
And—whilst the babbling echo mocks the hounds,
Replying shrilly to the well-tun'd horns,
As if a double hunt were heard at once,—
Let us sit down, and mark their yelling noise: 190
And—after conflict, such as was suppos'd
The wandering prince and Dido once enjoy'd,

When

When with a happy storm they were surpris'd,
And curtain'd with a counsel-keeping cave,—
We may, each wreathed in the other's arms,
Our pastimes done, possess a golden slumber;
Whilst hounds, and horns, and sweet melodious birds,
Be unto us, as is a nurse's song
Of lullaby, to bring her babe asleep.

Aar. Madam, though Venus govern your desires,
Saturn is dominator over mine : 201

What signifies my deadly-standing eye,
My silence, and my cloudy melancholy?
My fleece of woolly hair, that now uncurls,
Even as an adder, when she doth unroll
To do some fatal execution?

No, madam, these are no venereal signs;
Vengeance is in my heart, death in my hand,
Blood and revenge are hammering in my head.
Hark, Tamora,—the empress of my soul, 210
Which never hopes more heaven than rests in thee,
This is the day of doom for Bassianus;
His Philomel must lose her tongue to-day;
Thy sons make pillage of her chastity,
And wash their hands in Bassianus' blood.
Seest thou this letter? take it up, I pray thee,
And give the king this fatal-plotted scroll:—
Now question me no more, we are espied,
Here comes a parcel of our hopeful booty,
Which dreads not yet their lives' destruction. 220

Tam. Ah, my sweet Moor, sweeter to me than
life!

Aar.

Aar. No more, great emperess, Bassianus comes:
Be cross with him ; and I'll go fetch thy sons
To back thy quarrels, whatsoe'er they be. [Exit.

Enter BASSIANUS, and LAVINIA.

Bas. Whom have we here? Rome's royal emperess,
Unfurnish'd of her well-beseeming troop?
Or is it Dian, habited like her;
Who hath abandoned her holy groves,
To see the general hunting in this forest?

Tam. Saucy controller of our private steps! 230
Had I the power, that, some say, Dian had,
Thy temples should be planted presently
With horns, as was Acteon's; and the hounds
Should drive upon thy new-transformed limbs,
Unmannerly intruder as thou art!

Lav. Under your patience, gentle emperess,
'Tis thought you have a goodly gift in horning;
And to be doubted, that your Moor and you
Are singled forth to try experiments:
Jove shield your husband from his hounds to-day!
'Tis pity, they should take him for a stag. 241

Bas. Believe me, queen, your swarth Cimmerian
Doth make your honour of his body's hue,
Spotted, detested, and abominable.
Why are you sequester'd from all your train?
Dismounted from your snow-white goodly steed,
And wander'd hither to an obscure plot,
Accompanied with a barbarous Moor,
If foul desire had not conducted you?

Lav.

Lav. And, being intercepted in your sport, 250
Great reason that my noble lord be rated
For sauciness.—I pray you, let us hence,
And let her 'joy her raven-colour'd love ;
This valley fits the purpose passing well.

Bas. The king, my brother, shall have note of
this.

Lav. Ay, for these slips have made him noted
long :

Good king ! to be so mightily abus'd !

Tam. Why have I patience to endure all this ?

Enter CHIRON, and DEMETRIUS.

Dem. How now, dear sovereign, and our gracious
mother,

Why does your highness look so pale and wan ? 260

Tam. Have I not reason, think you, to look pale ?

These two have 'tic'd me hither to this place,

A barren and detested vale, you see, it is :

The trees, though summer, yet forlorn and lean,

O'ercome with moss, and baleful misletoe.

Here never shines the sun ; here nothing breeds,

Unless the nightly owl, or fatal raven.

And, when they shew'd me this abhorred pit,

They told me, here, at dead time of the night,

A thousand fiends, a thousand hissing snakes, 270

Ten thousand swelling toads, as many urchins,

Would make such fearful and confused cries,

As any mortal body, hearing it,

Should straight fall mad, or else die suddenly.

No sooner had they told this hellish tale,
 But straight they told me, they would bind me here
 Unto the body of a dismal yew ;
 And leave me to this miserable death.
 And then they call'd me, foul adulteress,
 Lascivious Goth, and all the bitterest terms 280
 That ever ear did hear to such effect.
 And, had you not by wondrous fortune come,
 This vengeance on me had they executed :
 Revenge it, as you love your mother's life,
 Or be ye not from henceforth call'd my children.

Dem. This is a witness that I am thy son.

[*Stabs* BASSIANUS.

Chi. And this for me, struck home to shew my
 strength. [Stabbing him likewise.

Law. Ay come, Semiramis,—nay, barbarous Tamora !

For no name fits thy nature but thy own !

Tam. Give me thy poniard ; you shall know, my
 boys, 290

Your mother's hand shall right your mother's wrong.

Dem. Stay, madam, here is more belongs to her ;
 First, thrash the corn, then after burn the straw :
 This minion stood upon her chastity,
 Upon her nuptial vow, her loyalty,
 And with that painted hope she braves your mighti-
 ness :

And shall she carry this unto her grave ?

Chi. An if she do, I would I were an eunuch.
 Drag hence her husband to some secret hole,

And

And make his dead trunk pillow to our lust. 300

Tam. But when you have the honey you desire,
Let not this wasp out-live, us both to sting.

Chi. I warrant you, madam; we will make that
sure.—

Come, mistress, now perforce we will enjoy
That nice-preserved honesty of yours.

Lav. O Tamora! thou bear'st a woman's face,—

Tam. I will not hear her speak; away with her.

Lav. Sweet lords, entreat her hear me but a word.

Dem. Listen, fair madam: Let it be your glory,
To see her tears; but be your heart to them, 310
As unrelenting flint to drops of rain.

Lav. When did the tyger's young ones teach the
dam?

O, do not teach her wrath; she taught it thee:
The milk, thou suck'dst from her, did turn to marble;
Even at thy teat thou had'st thy tyranny.—
Yet every mother breeds not sons alike;
Do thou entreat her shew a woman pity.

[To CHIRON.

Chi. What! would'st thou have me prove myself a
bastard?

Lav. 'Tis true the raven doth not hatch a lark:
Yet have I heard (O could I find it now!), 320

The lion, mov'd with pity, did endure
To have his princely paws par'd all away.
Some say, that ravens foster forlorn children,
The whilst their own birds famish in their nests:
O, be to me, though thy hard heart say no,

D ij

Nothing

Nothing so kind, but something pitiful!

Tam. I know not what it means; away with her.

Lav. O, let me teach thee: for my father's sake,
That gave thee life, when well he might have slain
thee,

Be not obdurate, open thy deaf ears. 330

Tam. Hadst thou in person ne'er offended me,
Even for his sake am I now pitiless:—

Remember, boys, I pour'd forth tears in vain,
To save your brother from the sacrifice;
But fierce Andronicus would not relent:
Therefore away with her, use her as you will;
The worse to her, the better lov'd of me.

Lav. O Tamora, be call'd a gentle queen,
And with thine own hands kill me in this place:
For 'tis not life, that I have begg'd so long; 340
Poor I was slain, when Bassianus dy'd.

Tam. What begg'st thou then? fond woman, let
me go.

Lav. 'Tis present death I beg; and one thing
more,

That womanhood denies my tongue to tell:
O, keep me from their worse than killing lust,
And tumble me into some loathsome pit;
Where never man's eye may behold my body:
Do this, and be a charitable murderer.

Tam. So should I rob my sweet sons of their fee:
No, let them satisfy their lust on thee. 350

Dem. Away; for thou hast staid us here too long.
Lav.

Lav. No grace? no womanhood? Ah beastly creature!

The blot and enemy to our general name!

Confusion fall——

Chi. Nay, then I'll stop your mouth,—Bring thou her husband; - [*Dragging off LAVINIA.*]

This is the hole where Aaron bid us hide him,

[*Exeunt.*]

Tam. Farewel, my sons: see, that you make her sure:

Ne'er let my heart know merry cheer indeed,

'Till all the Andronici be made away.

Now will I hence to seek my lovely Moor, 360

And let my spleenful sons this trull deflow'r. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.

Enter AARON, with QUINTUS, and MARCUS.

Aar. Come on, my lords; the better foot before:
Straight will I bring you to the loathsome pit,
Where I espied the panther fast asleep.

Quin. My sight is very dull, whate'er it bodes.

Mar. And mine, I promise you; wer't not for shame,

Well could I leave our sport, to sleep a while.

[*MARCUS falls into the Pit.*]

Quin. What, art thou fallen? What subtle hole is this,

Whose mouth is cover'd with rude-growing briars;

D i i j

Upon

Upon whose leaves are drops of new-shed blood, 370
As fresh as morning's dew distill'd on flowers?

A very fatal place it seems to me:—

Speak, brother, hast thou hurt thee with the fall?

Mar. O brother, with the dismallest object
That ever eye, with sight, made heart lament.

Aar. [*Aside.*] Now will I fetch the king to find
them here;

That he thereby may have a likely guess,
How these were they, that made away his brother.

[*Exit AARON.*]

Mar. Why dost not comfort me and help me out
From this unhallow'd and blood-stained hole? 380

Quin. I am surprised with an uncouth fear:
A chilling sweat o'er-runs my trembling joints;
Mine heart suspects more than mine eye can see.

Mar. To prove thou hast a true-divining heart,
Aaron and thou look down into this den,
And see a fearful sight of blood and death.

Quin. Aaron is gone; and my compassionate heart
Will not permit my eyes once to behold
The thing, whereat it trembles by surmise:
O, tell me how it is; for ne'er 'till now 390
Was I a child, to fear I know not what.

Mar. Lord Bassianus lies embrewed here,
All on a heap, like to a slaughter'd lamb,
In this detested, dark, blood-drinking pit.

Quin. If it be dark, how dost thou know 'tis he?

Mar. Upon his bloody finger he doth wear
A precious ring, that lightens all the hole,

Which,

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find

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380

heart

390

he ?

high,

L. J. de Loutherbourg del.



TITUS ANDRONICUS.

*Thy hand once more, I will not leave again;
Till thou art here, aloft, or I below.*

Act 2.

Scene 4.

P. J. de Loutherbourg del.

London Printed for J. Bell British Library Strand Aug: 6th 1855.

Act II.

Which,
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Mar.
Quin.
Till the
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Sat.
And w
Say, w
Into th
Mar.
Brough
To find
Sat.

Which, like a taper in some monument,
Doth shine upon the dead man's earthy cheeks,
And shews the ragged entrails of this pit : 400
So pale did shine the moon on Pyramus,
When he by night lay bath'd in maiden blood.
O brother, help me with thy fainting hand,—
If fear hath made thee faint, as me it hath,—
Out of this fell devouring receptacle,
As hateful as Cocytus' misty mouth.

Quin. Reach me thy hand, that I may help thee
out.

Or, wanting strength to do thee so much good,
I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. 410
I have no strength to pluck thee to the brink.

Mar. And I no strength to climb without thy help.

Quin. Thy hand once more; I will not lose again,
Till thou art here aloft, or I below :

Thou canst not come to me, I come to thee.

[*Falls in.*]

Enter the Emperor, and AARON.

Sat. Along with me:—I'll see what hole is here,
And what he is, that now is leap'd into it.—
Say, who art thou, that lately didst descend
Into this gaping hollow of the earth ?

Mar. The unhappy son of old Andronicus ; 420
Brought hither in a most unlucky hour,
To find thy brother Bassianus dead.

Sat. My brother dead? I know thou dost but jest :

He

He and his lady both are at the lodge,
Upon the north side of this pleasant chace;
'Tis not an hour since I left him there.

Mar. We know not where you left him all alive,
But, out alas! here have we found him dead.

*Enter TAMORA, with Attendants; ANDRONICUS, and
LUCIUS.*

Tam. Where is my lord, the king?

Sat. Here, Tamora; though griev'd with killing
grief. 430

Tam. Where is thy brother Bassianus?

Sat. Now to the bottom dost thou search my wound;
Poor Bassianus here lies murdered.

Tam. Then all too late I bring this fatal writ,
The complot of this timeless tragedy:
And wonder greatly, that man's face can fold
In pleasing smiles such murderous tyranny.

[*She giveth SATURNINUS a Letter.*

SATURNINUS reads the Letter.

*An if we miss to meet him handsomely,—
Sweet huntsman—Bassianus 'tis, we mean,—
Do thou so much as dig the grave for him; 440
Thou know'st our meaning: Look for thy reward
Among the nettles at the elder tree,
Which over-shades the mouth of that same pit,
Where we decreed to bury Bassianus.
Do this, and purchase us thy lasting friends.*

O, Tamora!

O, Tamora! was ever heard the like?
This is the pit, and this the elder-tree:
Look, sirs, if you can find the huntsman out,
That should have murder'd Bassianus here. 449

Aar. My gracious lord, here is the bag of gold.
[*Shewing it.*

Sat. Two of thy whelps, fell curs of bloody kind,
Have here bereft my brother of his life:—
[*To Titus.*

Sirs, drag them from the pit unto the prison;
There let them bide, until we have devis'd
Some never-heard-of torturing pain for them.
Tam. What, are they in this pit? O wondrous
thing!

How easily murder is discovered!

Tit. High emperor, upon my feeble knee
I beg this boon, with tears not lightly shed,
That this fell fault of mine accursed sons, 460
Accursed, if the fault be prov'd in them—

Sat. If it be prov'd! you see, it is apparent.—
Who found this letter? Tamora, was it you?

Tam. Andronicus himself did take it up.

Tit. I did, my lord: yet let me be their bail:

For by my father's reverend tomb, I vow,
They shall be ready at your highness' will,
To answer their suspicion with their lives.

Sat. Thou shalt not bail them: see, thou follow me.
Some bring the murder'd body, some the murderers:
Let them not speak a word, the guilt is plain; 471
For, by my soul, were there worse end than death,
That

That end upon them should be executed.

Tam. Andronicus, I will entreat the king;
Fear not thy sons, they shall do well enough.

Tit. Come, Lucius, come; stay not to talk with
them. [Exeunt severally.]

SCENE V.

*Enter DEMETRIUS and CHIRON, with LAVINIA,
ravished; her Hands cut off, and her Tongue cut out.*

Dem. So, now go tell, an if thy tongue can speak,
Who 'twas that cut thy tongue, and ravish'd thee.

Chi. Write down thy mind, bewray thy meaning
so;

And, if thy stumps will let thee, play the scribe.

Dem. See how with signs and tokens she can scowl.

Chi. Go home, call for sweet water, wash thy
hands.

Dem. She has no tongue to call, nor hands to wash;
And so let's leave her to her silent walks.

Chi. An 'twere my case, I should go hang myself.

Dem. If thou hadst hands to help thee knit the cord.

[Exeunt DEMETRIUS and CHIRON.]

Enter MARCUS to LAVINIA.

Mar. Who's this,—my niece, that flies away so fast?
Cousin, a word; Where is your husband?—
If I do dream, 'would all my wealth would wake me!
If I do wake, some planet strike me down,

490
That

That I may slumber in eternal sleep!—

Speak, gentle niece, what stern ungentle hand
Have lopp'd, and hew'd, and made thy body bare
Of her two branches? those sweet ornaments,
Whose circling shadows kings have sought to sleep in;
And might not gain so great a happiness,
As half thy love? Why dost not speak to me?—

Alas, a crimson river of warm blood,
Like to a bubbling fountain stirr'd with wind,
Doth rise and fall between thy rosed lips, 500
Coming and going with thy honey breath.

But, sure, some Tereus hath deflow'ed thee;
And, lest thou should'st detect him, cut thy tongue.

Ah, now thou turn'st away thy face for shame!

And, notwithstanding all this loss of blood,—

As from a conduit with their issuing spouts,—

Yet do thy cheeks look red as Titan's face,

Blushing to be encounter'd with a cloud.

Shall I speak for thee? shall I say, 'tis so?

O, that I knew thy heart; and knew the beast, 510

That I might rail at him to ease my mind!

Sorrow concealed, like an oven stopp'd,

Doth burn the heart to cinders where it is.

Fair Philomela, she but lost her tongue,

And in a tedious sampler sew'd her mind:

But, lovely niece, that mean is cut from thee;

A craftier Tereus hast thou met withal,

And he hath cut those pretty fingers off,

That better could have sew'd than Philomel.

O, had the monster seen those lily hands 520

Tremble,

Tremble, like aspen leaves, upon a lute,
And make the silken strings delight to kiss them;
He would not then have touch'd them for his life.
Or, had he heard the heavenly harmony,
Which that sweet tongue hath made;
He would have dropp'd his knife, and fell asleep,
As Cerberus at the Thracian poet's feet.
Come, let us go, and make thy father blind;
For such a sight will blind a father's eye:
One hour's storm will drown the fragrant meads;
What will whole months of tears thy father's eyes?
Do not draw back, for we will mourn with thee;
O, could our mourning ease thy misery! [Exeunt.

Æt. III. SCENE I.

*A Street in Rome. Enter the Judges and Senators, with
MARCUS and QUINTUS bound, passing on the Stage
to the Place of Execution, and TITUS going before,
pleading.*

Titus.

HEAR me, grave fathers! noble tribunes, stay!
For pity of mine age, whose youth was spent
In dangerous wars, whilst you securely slept;
For all my blood in Rome's great quarrel shed;
For all the frosty nights that I have watch'd;
And for these bitter tears, which you now see
Filling the aged wrinkles in my cheeks;

Ec

III.

m;
fe.

p,

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es?
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xent.

with
Stage
before,

!

Ec

SHAKSPEARE.



TITUS ANDRONICUS.

Lucius O noble Father you lament in vain.
And you recount your Sorrows to a Stone

Act 3

Scene 1

J. M. Moreau Inv. del.

N. 6 More

Printed for J. Bell British Library Strand London Angl 16th 1785.

Be pitiful to my condemned sons,
Whose souls are not corrupted, as 'tis thought !
For two and twenty sons I never wept, 10
Because they died in honour's lofty bed.

[ANDRONICUS lieth down, and the Judges pass by him.]

For these, these, tribunes, in the dust I write
My heart's deep languor, and my soul's sad tears.
Let my tears stanch the earth's dry appetite ;
My sons' sweet blood will make it shame and blush.
O earth ! I will befriend thee more with rain,

[Exeunt.]

That shall distil from these two ancient urns,
Than youthful April shall with all his showers :
In summer's drought, I'll drop upon thee still ;
In winter, with warm tears I'll melt the snow, 20
And keep eternal spring-time on thy face,
So thou refuse to drink my dear sons' blood.

Enter LUCIUS, with his Sword drawn.

O, reverend tribunes ! gentle aged men !
Unbind my sons, reverse the doom of death ;
And let me say, that never wept before,
My tears are now prevailing orators.

Luc. O, noble father, you lament in vain ;
The tribunes hear you not, no man is by,
And you recount your sorrows to a stone.

Tit. Ah, Lucius, for thy brothers let me plead :—
Grave tribunes, once more I entreat of you. 31

Luc. My gracious lord, no tribune hears you speak.

Tit. Why, 'tis no matter, man : if they did hear,

E

They

They would not mark me ; or, if they did mark,
 All bootless unto them, they would not pity me.
 Therefore I tell my sorrows to the stones ;
 Who, though they cannot answer my distress,
 Yet in some sort they're better than the tribunes,
 For that they will not intercept my tale :
 When I do weep, they humbly at my feet, 40
 Receive my tears, and seem to weep with me ;
 And, were they but attired in grave weeds,
 Rome could afford no tribune like to these.
 A stone is soft as wax, tribunes more hard than stones :
 A stone is silent, and offendeth not ;
 And tribunes with their tongues doom men to death.
 But wherefore stand'st thou with thy weapon drawn ?

Luc. To rescue my two brothers from their death :
 For which attempt, the judges have pronounc'd
 My everlasting doom of banishment. 50

Tit. O happy man ! they have befriended thee.
 Why, foolish Lucius, dost thou not perceive,
 That Rome is but a wilderness of tygers ;
 Tygers must prey ; and Rome affords no prey,
 But me and mine : How happy art thou then,
 From these devourers to be banished ?
 But who comes with our brother Marcus here ?

Enter MARCUS, and LAVINIA.

Mar. Titus, prepare thy noble eyes to weep ;
 Or, if not so, thy noble heart to break ;
 I bring consuming sorrow to thine age. 60

Tit. Will it consume me ? let me see it then.

Mar.

Mar. This was thy daughter.

Tit. Why, Marcus, so she is.

Luc. Ah me! this object kills me!

Tit. Faint-hearted boy, arise, and look upon her:—

Speak, my Lavinia, what accursed hand

Hath made thee handless in thy father's sight?

What fool hath added water to the sea?

Or brought a faggot to bright-burning Troy?

My grief was at the height before thou cam'st, 70

And now, like Nilus, it disdaineth bounds.—

Give me a sword, I'll chop off my hands too;

For they have fought for Rome, and all in vain;

And they have nurs'd this woe, in feeding life;

In bootless prayer have they been held up,

And they have serv'd me to effectless use:

Now, all the service I require of them

Is, that the one will help to cut the other.—

'Tis well, Lavinia, that thou hast no hands;

For hands, to do Rome service, are but vain. 80

Luc. Speak, gentle sister, who hath martyr'd thee?

Mar. O, that delightful engine of her thoughts,

That blab'd them with such pleasing eloquence,

Is torn from forth that pretty hollow cage;

Where like a sweet melodious bird it sung

Sweet vary'd notes, enchanting every ear!

Luc. O, say thou for her, who hath done this deed?

Mar. O, thus I found her, straying in the park,

Seeking to hide herself; as doth the deer,

That hath receiv'd some unrecuring wound. 90

Tit. It was my deer; and he, that wounded her,

E i j

Hath

Hath hurt me more, than had he kill'd me dead :
 For now I stand as one upon a rock,
 Environ'd with a wilderness of sea ;
 Who marks the waxing tide grow wave by wave,
 Expecting ever when some envious surge
 Will in his brinish bowels swallow him.
 This way to death my wretched sons are gone ;
 Here stands my other son, a banish'd man ;
 And here my brother, weeping at my woes : 100
 But that, which gives my soul the greatest spurn,
 Is dear Lavinia, dearer than my soul.—
 Had I but seen thy picture in this plight,
 It would have maddened me ; What shall I do,
 Now I behold thy lovely body so ?
 Thou hast no hands, to wipe away thy tears ;
 Nor tongue, to tell me who hath martyr'd thee :
 Thy husband he is dead ; and, for his death,
 Thy brothers are condemn'd, and dead by this :—
 Look, Marcus ! ah, son Lucius, look on her ! 110
 When I did name her brothers, then fresh tears
 Stood on her cheeks ; as doth the honey dew
 Upon a gather'd lily almost wither'd.

Mar. Perchance, she weeps because they kill'd her
 husband :

Perchance, because she knows them innocent.

Tit. If they did kill thy husband, then be joyful,
 Because the law hath ta'n revenge on them.—
 No, no, they would not do so foul a deed ;
 Witness the sorrow, that their sister makes.—
 Gentle Lavinia, let me kiss thy lips ;

Or make some signs how I may do thee ease.
 Shall thy good uncle, and thy brother Lucius,
 And thou, and I, sit round about some fountain;
 Looking all downwards, to behold our cheeks
 How they are stain'd; like meadows, yet not dry
 With miry slime left on them by a flood?
 And in the fountain shall we gaze so long,
 'Till the fresh taste be taken from that clearness,
 And made a brine-pit with our bitter tears?
 Or shall we cut away our hands, like thine? 130
 Or shall we bite our tongues, and in dumb shows
 Pass the remainder of our hateful days?
 What shall we do? let us, that have our tongues,
 Plot some device of further misery,
 To make us wonder'd at in time to come.

Luc. Sweet father, cease your tears; for, at your
 grief,

See, how my wretched sister sobs and weeps.

Mar. Patience, dear niece:—good Titus, dry thine
 eyes.

Tit. Ah, Marcus, Marcus! brother, well I wot,
 Thy napkin cannot drink a tear of mine, 140
 For thou, poor man, hast drown'd it with thine own.

Luc. Ah, my Lavinia, I will wipe thy cheeks.

Tit. Mark, Marcus, mark! I understand her signs:
 Had she a tongue to speak, now she would say
 That to her brother which I said to thee;
 His napkin, with his true tears all bewet,
 Can do no service on her sorrowful cheeks.

E iij

O, what

O, what a sympathy of woe is this !
As far from help as limbo is from bliss.

Enter AARON.

Aar. Titus Andronicus, my lord the emperor 150
Sends thee this word,—That if thou love thy sons,
Let Marcus, Lucius, or thyself, old Titus,
Or any one of you, chop off your hand,
And send it to the king : he for the same
Will send thee hither both thy sons alive ;
And that shall be the ransom for their fault.

Tit. O, gracious emperor ! O, gentle Aaron !
Did ever raven sing so like a lark,
That gives sweet tidings of the sun's uprise ?
With all my heart, I'll send the emperor my hand ;
Good Aaron, wilt thou help to chop it off ?

Luc. Stay, father ; for that noble hand of thine,
That hath thrown down so many enemies,
Shall not be sent : my hand will serve the turn :
My youth can better spare my blood than you ;
And therefore mine shall save my brothers' lives.

Mar. Which of your hands hath not defended
Rome,
And rear'd aloft the bloody battle-axe,
Writing destruction on the enemies' castle ?
O, none of both but are of high desert : 170
My hand hath been but idle ; let it serve
To ransom my two nephews from their death ;
Then have I kept it to a worthy end.

Aar. Nay, come, agree, whose hand shall go along,

For fear they die before their pardon come.

Mar. My hand shall go.

Luc. By heaven, it shall not go.

Tit. Sirs, strive no more; such wither'd herbs as
these

Are meet for plucking up, and therefore mine.

Luc. Sweet father, if I shall be thought thy son,
Let me redeem my brothers both from death. 181

Mar. And, for our father's sake, and mother's care,
Now let me shew a brother's love to thee.

Tit. Agree between you; I will spare my hand.

Luc. Then I'll go fetch an axe.

Mar. But I will use the axe.

[*Exeunt LUCIUS, and MARCUS.*]

Tit. Come hither, Aaron; I'll deceive them both;
Lend me thy hand, and I will give thee mine.

Aar. If that be call'd deceit, I will be honest,
And never, whilst I live, deceive men so:— 190

But I'll deceive you in another sort,
And that you'll say, ere half an hour pass. [*Aside.*]

[*He cuts off TITUS's Hand.*]

Enter LUCIUS and MARCUS again.

Tit. Now, stay your strife; what shall be, is dis-
patch'd.—

Good Aaron, give his majesty my hand:
Tell him, it was a hand that warded him
From thousand dangers; bid him bury it;
More hath it merited, that let it have.
As for my sons, say, I account of them

As

As jewels purchas'd at an easy price;
And yet dear too, because I bought mine own. 200

Aar. I go, Andronicus: and for thy hand,
Look by and by to have thy sens with thee:—
Their heads, I mean.—O, how this villainy [*Aside*
Doth fat me with the very thought of it!

Let fools do good, and fair men call for grace,
Aaron will have his soul black like his face. [*Exit.*

Tit. O hear!—I lift this one hand up to heaven,
And bow this feeble ruin to the earth:
If any power pities wretched tears,
To that I call:—What, wilt thou kneel with me? 210

[*To LAVINIA.*

Do then, dear heart; for heaven shall hear our prayers;
Or with our sighs we'll breathe the welkin dim,
And stain the sun with fog, as sometime clouds,
When they do hug him in their melting bosoms.

Mar. O! brother speak with possibilities,
And do not break into these deep extremes.

Tit. Is not my sorrow deep, having no bottom?
Then be my passions bottomless with them.

Mar. But yet let reason govern thy lament.

Tit. If there were reason for these miseries, 220
Then into limits could I bind my woes:
When heaven doth weep, doth not the earth o'erflow?
If the winds rage, doth not the sea wax mad?
Threat'ning the welkin with his big-swoln face?
And wilt thou have a reason for this coil?
I am the sea; hark, how her sighs do blow!
She is the weeping welkin, I the earth:

Thou

Then must my sea be moved with her sighs ;
 Then must my earth with her continual tears
 Become a deluge, overflow'd and drown'd : 230
 For why ? my bowels cannot hide her woes,
 But like a drunkard must I vomit them.
 Then give me leave ; for losers will have leave
 To ease their stomachs with their bitter tongues.

Enter a Messenger, bringing in two Heads and a Hand.

Mess. Worthy Andronicus, ill art thou repaid
 For that good hand, thou sent'st the emperor.
 Here are the heads of thy two noble sons ;
 And here's thy hand, in scorn to thee sent back ;
 Thy griefs their sports, thy resolution mock'd :
 That woe is me to think upon thy woes, 240
 More than remembrance of my father's death.
 [Exit.

Mar. Now let hot Ætna cool in Sicily,
 And be my heart an ever-burning hell !
 These miseries are more than may be borne !
 To weep with them that weep doth ease some deal,
 But sorrow flouted at is double death.

Luc. Ah, that this sight should make so deep a
 wound,

And yet detested life not shrink thereat !
 That ever death should let life bear his name,
 Where life hath no more interest but to breathe ! 250
 [LAVINIA kisses him.

Mar. Alas, poor heart, that kiss is comfortless,
 As frozen water to a starved snake.

Tit.

Tit. When will this fearful slumber have an end?

Mar. Now, farewell, flattery: Die, Andronicus;
Thou dost not slumber: see, thy two son's heads;
Thy warlike hand; thy mangled daughter here;
Thy other banish'd son, with this dear sight
Struck pale and bloodless; and thy brother, I,
Even like a stony image, cold and numb.

Ah! now no more will I control thy griefs: 260
Rent off thy silver hair, thy other hand
Gnawing with thy teeth; and be this dismal sight
The closing up of your most wretched eyes!
Now is a time to storm, why art thou still?

Tit. Ha, ha, ha!

Mar. Why dost thou laugh? it fits not with this
hour.

Tit. Why I have not another tear to shed:
Besides, this sorrow is an enemy,
And would usurp upon my watry eyes,
And make them blind with tributary tears; 270
Then which way shall I find revenge's cave?
For these two heads do seem to speak to me;
And threat me, I shall never come to bliss,
'Till all these mischiefs be return'd again,
Even in their throats that have committed them.
Come, let me see what task I have to do.—
You heavy people, circle me about;
That I may turn me to each one of you.
And swear unto my soul to right your wrongs.
The vow is made.—Come, brother, take a head;
And in this hand the other will I bear: 281

Lavinia,

Lavinia, thou shalt be employed in these things;
 Bear thou my hand, sweet wench, between thy teeth.
 As for thee, boy, go, get thee from my sight;
 Thou art an exile, and thou must not stay:
 Hie to the Goths, and raise an army there:
 And, if you love me, as I think you do,
 Let's kiss and part, for we have much to do.

[*Exeunt.*]

Manet LUCIUS.

Luc. Farewel, Andronicus, my noble father;
 The woful'st man that ever liv'd in Rome! 290
 Farewel, proud Rome! 'till Lucius comes again,
 He leaves his pledges dearer than his life.
 Farewel, Lavinia, my noble sister;
 O, 'would thou wert as thou 'tofore hast been!
 But now nor Lucius, nor Lavinia lives,
 But in oblivion, and hateful griefs.
 If Lucius live, he will requite your wrongs;
 And make proud Saturninus and his emperess
 Beg at the gates, like Tarquin and his queen.
 Now will I to the Goths, and raise a power, 300
 To be reveng'd on Rome and Saturnine.

[*Exit* LUCIUS.]

SCENE

SCENE II.

*An Apartment in TITUS's House. A Banquet. Enter
TITUS, MARCUS, LAVINIA, and young LUCIUS,
a Boy.*

Tit. So, so ; now sit : and look, you eat no more
Than will preserve just so much strength in us
As will revenge these bitter woes of ours.
Marcus, unknit that sorrow-wreathen knot ;
Thy niece and I, poor creatures, want our hands,
And cannot passionate our ten-fold grief
With folded arms. This poor right hand of mine
Is left to tyrannize upon my breast ;
And when my heart, all mad with misery, 310
Beats in this hollow prison of my flesh,
Then thus I thump it down.—
Thou map of woe, that thus dost talk in signs !

[*To LAVINIA.*

When thy poor heart beats with outrageous beating,
Thou canst not strike it thus to make it still.
Wound it with sighing, girl, kill it with groans ;
Or get some little knife between thy teeth,
And just against thy heart make thou a hole ;
That all the tears that thy poor eyes let fall,
May run into that sink, and soaking in, 320
Drown the lamenting fool in sea-salt tears.

Mar. Fye, brother, fye ! teach her not thus to lay
Such violent hands upon her tender life.

Tit.

Tit. How now! has sorrow made thee doat already?

Why, Marcus, no man should be mad but I.

What violent hands can she lay on her life?

Ah, wherefore dost thou urge the name of hands;—

To bid Æneas tell the tale twice o'er,

How Troy was burnt, and he made miserable?

O, handle not the theme, to talk of hands; 330

Lest we remember still, that we have none.—

Fye, fye, how frantickly I square my talk!

As if we should forget we had no hands,

If Marcus did not name the word of hands!—

Come, let's fall to; and, gentle girl, eat this:—

Here is no drink! Hark, Marcus, what she says;—

I can interpret all her martyr'd signs;—

She says, she drinks no other drink but tears,

Brew'd with her sorrows, mesh'd upon her cheeks:—

Speechless complainer, I will learn thy thought; 340

In thy dumb action will I be as perfect,

As begging hermits in their holy prayers:

Thou shalt not sigh, nor hold thy stumps to heaven,

Nor wink, nor nod, nor kneel, nor make a sign,

But I, of these, will wrest an alphabet,

And, by still practice, learn to know the meaning.

Boy. Good grandsire, leave these bitter deep laments;

350 Make my aunt merry with some pleasing tale.

Mar. Alas, the tender boy, in passion mov'd,

Doth weep to see his grandsire's heaviness. 350

Tit. Peace, tender sapling; thou art made of tears,

And tears will quickly melt thy life away.

[MARCUS strikes the Dish with a Knife.

What dost thou strike at, Marcus, with thy knife?

Mar. At that that I have kill'd, my lord; a fly.

Tit. Out on thee, murderer! thou kill'st my heart;
Mine eyes are cloy'd with view of tyranny:
A deed of death, done on the innocent,
Becomes not Titus' brother; Get thee gone;
I see, thou art not for my company.

Mar. Alas, my lord, I have but kill'd a fly. 360

Tit. But how, if that fly had a father and mother?
How would he hang his slender gilded wings,
And buz lamenting doings in the air?
Poor harmless fly!

That with his pretty buzzing melody,
Came here to make us merry; and thou hast kill'd
him.

Mar. Pardon me, sir; it was a black ill-favour'd
fly,

Like to the emperess' Moor; therefore I kill'd him.

Tit. O, O, O,

Then pardon me for reprehending thee, 370

For thou hast done a charitable deed.

Give me thy knife, I will insult on him;

Flattering myself, as if it were the Moor,

Come hither purposely to poison me.—

There's for thyself, and that's for Tamora.

Ah, sirrah!—yet I think we are not brought so low.

But that, between us, we can kill a fly,

That comes in likeness of a coal-black Moor.

Mar. Alas, poor man! grief has so wrought on him,
He takes false shadows for true substances. 389

Tit. Come, take away.—Lavinia, go with me:
I'll to thy closet; and go read with thee
Sad stories, chanced in the times of old.—
Come, boy, and go with me; thy sight is young,
And thou shalt read, when mine begins to dazzle.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT IV. SCENE I.

TITUS's House. Enter young LUCIUS, and LAVINIA running after him; and the Boy flies from her, with his Books under his Arm. Enter TITUS and MARCUS.

Boy.

HELP, grandsire, help! my aunt Lavinia
Follows me every where, I know not why:—
Good uncle Marcus, see how swift she comes!
Alas, sweet aunt, I know not what you mean.

Mar. Stand by me, Lucius; do not fear thine aunt.

Tit. She loves thee, boy, too well to do thee harm.

Boy. Ah, when my father was in Rome, she did.

Mar. What means my niece Lavinia by these signs?

Fij

Tit.

Tit. Fear her not, Lucius :—Somewhat doth she mean :—

See, Lucius, see, how much she makes of thee : 10
Somewhither would she have thee go with her.

Ah, boy, Cornelia never with more care
Read to her sons, than she hath read to thee,
Sweet poetry, and Tully's oratory.

Canst thou not guess wherefore she plies thee thus ?

Boy. My lord, I know not, I, nor can I guess,
Unless some fit of phrenzy do possess her :
For I have heard my grandsire say full oft,
Extremity of griefs would make men mad ;
And I have read, that Hecuba of Troy 20
Ran mad through sorrow ; That made me to fear ;
Although, my lord, I know, my noble aunt
Loves me as dear as e'er my mother did,
And would not, but in fury, fright my youth :
Which made me down to throw my books, and fly ;
Causeless, perhaps : But pardon, me sweet aunt :
And, madam, if my uncle Marcus go,
I will most willingly attend your ladyship.

Mar. Lucius, I will.

Tit. How now, Lavinia ?—Marcus, what means 30
this ?

Some book there is that she desires to see :—
Which is it, girl, of these ? Open them, boy.—
But thou art deeper read, and better skill'd ;
Come, and take choice of all my library,
And so beguile thy sorrow, 'till the heavens
Reveal the damn'd contriver of this deed.—

Why

Why lifts she up her arms in sequence thus?

Mar. I think, she means, that there was more than one

Confederate in the fact;—Ay, more there was:—

Or else to heaven she heaves them for revenge. 40

Tit. Lucius, what book is that she tosseth so?

Boy. Grandsire, 'tis Ovid's *Metamorphosis*;
My mother gave it me.

Mar. For love of her that's gone,
Perhaps she cull'd it from among the rest.

Tit. Soft! soft, how busily she turns the leaves!
Help her: What would she find? Lavinia, shall I
read?

This is the tragic tale of Philomel,
And treats of Tereus' treason, and his rape;
And rape, I fear, was root of thine annoy. 50

Mar. See, brother see; note, how she quotes the
leaves.

Tit. Lavinia, were't thou thus surpriz'd sweet girl,
Ravish'd, and wrong'd, as Philomela was,
Forc'd in the ruthless, vast, and gloomy woods?—
See, see!—

Ay, such a place there is, where we did hunt,
(O, had we never, never, hunted there!)
Pattern'd by that the poet here describes,
By nature made for murders, and for rapes.

Mar. O, why should nature build so foul a den, 60
Unless the gods delight in tragedies!

Tit. Give signs, sweet girl,—for here are none but
friends,—

What Roman lord it was durst do the deed :
Or slunk not Saturnine, as Tarquin erst,
That left the camp to sin in Lucrece' bed ?

Mar. Sit down, sweet niece :—brother, sit down
by me.—

Apollo, Pallas, Jove, or Mercury,
Inspire me, that I may this treason find !—
My lord, look here ;—look here, Lavinia :

*[He writes his Name with his Staff, and guides it
with his Feet and Mouth.]*

This sandy plot is plain ; guide, if thou can'st, 70
This after me, when I have writ my name
Without the help of any hand at all.
Curs'd be that heart, that forc'd us to this shift !—
Write thou, good niece ; and here display at last,
What God will have discover'd for revenge :
Heaven guide thy pen to print thy sorrows plain,
That we may know the traitors, and the truth !

*[She takes the Staff in her Mouth, and guides it
with her Stumps, and writes.]*

Tit. O, do you read, my lord, what she hath writ ?
Stuprum—Chiron—Demetrius.

Mar. What, what !—the lustful sons of Tamora
Performers of this hateful bloody deed ? 81

Tit. ——— *Magne Dominator Poli,*
Tam lentus audis scelera ? tam lentus vides ?

Mar. O, calm thee, gentle lord ! although, I know,
There is enough written upon this earth,
To stir a mutiny in the mildest thoughts,
And arm the minds of infants to exclains.

My

My lord, kneel down with me ; Lavinia, kneel ;
 And kneel, sweet boy, the Roman Hector's hope ;
 And swear with me,—as with the woeful feere, 90
 And father, of that chaste dishonour'd dame,
 Lord Junius Brutus sware for Lucrece' rape,—
 That we will prosecute, by good advice,
 Mortal revenge upon these traiterous Goths,
 And see their blood, or die with this reproach.

Tit. 'Tis sure enough, an you knew how.

But if you hurt these bear-whelps, then beware :

The dam will wake ; and, if she wind you once,

She's with the lion deeply still in league,

And lulls him while she playeth on her back, 100

And, when he sleeps, will she do what she list.

You're a young huntsman, Marcus ; let it alone ;

And, come, I will go get a leaf of brass,

And with a gad of steel will write these words,

And lay it by : the angry northern wind

Will blow these sands, like Sybil's leaves, abroad,

And where's your lesson then ?—Boy, what say you ?

Boy. I say, my lord, that if I were a man,

Their mother's bed-chamber should not be safe

For these bad bond-men to the yoke of Rome. 110

Mar. Ay, that's my boy ! thy father hath full oft

For this ungrateful country done the like,

Boy. And, uncle, so will I, an if I live.

Tit. Come, go with me into my armoury ;

Lucius, I'll fit thee ; and withal, my boy

Shall carry from me to the emperess' sons

Presents, that I intend to send them both :

Come,

Come, come; thou'lt do my message, wilt thou not?

Boy. Ay, with my dagger in their bosom, grand-sire.

Tit. No, no, boy, not so; I'll teach thee another course. 120

Lavinia, come:—Marcus, look to my house;
Lucius and I'll go brave it at the court;
Ay, marry, will we, sir; and we'll be waited on.

[*Exeunt.*

Mar. O heavens, can you hear a good man groan,
And not relent, or not compassionate him?
Marcus, attend him in his ecstasy;
That hath more scars of sorrow in his heart,
Than foe-men's marks upon his batter'd shield:
But yet so just, that he will not revenge:—
Revenge the heavens for old Andronicus! 130

[*Exit.*

SCENE II.

Changes to the Palace. Enter AARON, CHIRON, and DEMETRIUS, at one Door: and at another Door, young LUCIUS, and another, with a Bundle of Weapons, and Verses writ upon them.

Chi. Demetrius, here's the son of Lucius;
He hath some message to deliver to us. 140

Aar. Ay, some mad message from his mad grandfather.

Boy. My lords, with all the humbleness I may,
I greet your honours from Andronicus ;—
And pray the Roman gods, confound you both.

[*Aside.*

Dem. Gramercy, lovely Lucius ; What's the news ?

Boy. That you are both decypher'd, that's the news,

For villains mark'd with rape. [*Aside.*] May it please you,

My grandsire, well-advis'd, hath sent by me 140

The goodliest weapons of his armoury,

To gratify your honourable youth,

The hope of Rome ; for so he bade me say ;

And so I do, and with his gifts present

Your lordships, that whenever you have need,

You may be armed and appointed well :

And so I leave you both, [*Aside.*] like bloody villains.

[*Exit.*

Dem. What's here ? a scroll ; and written round about ?

Let's see ;

Integer vitæ, scelerisque purus,

150

Non eget Mauri jaculis nec arcu :

Chi. O, 'tis a verse in Horace ; I know it well :

I read it in the grammar long ago.

Aar. Ay, just ;—a verse in Horace ;—right, you have it.

Now,

Now, what a thing it is to be an ass!
Here's no fond jest: the old man hath found
their guilt;

And sends the weapons wrapp'd about with
lines,

That wound, beyond their feeling, to the
quick.

But were our witty emperess well a-foot,
She would applaud Andronicus' conceit.

But let her rest in her unrest a while.—

And now, young lords, was't not a happy star
Led us to Rome, strangers, and, more than so,
Captives, to be advanced to this height?

It did me good, before the palace gate

To brave the tribune in his brother's hearing.

Dem. But me more good, to see so great a lord
Basely insinuate, and send us gifts.

Aar. Had he not reason, lord Demetrius?
Did you not use his daughter very friendly?

Dem. I would we had a thousand Roman dames
At such a bay, by turn to serve our lust.

Chi. A charitable wish, and full of love.

Aar. Here lacketh but your mother to say amen.

Chi. And that would she for twenty thousand more.

Dem. Come, let us go; and pray to all the gods
For our beloved mother in her pains.

Aar. Pray to the devils; the gods have given us
o'er.

Dem. Why do the emperor's trumpets flourish
thus?

[*Aside.*

[*Aside. Flourish.*

Chi.

Chi. Belike, for joy the emperor hath a son. 180

Dem. Soft ; who comes here ?

Enter Nurse, with a Black-a-Moor Child.

Nurse. Good-morrow, lords :

O, tell me, did you see Aaron the Moor ?

Aar. Well, more, or less, or ne'er a whit at all.

Here Aaron is ; and what with Aaron now ?

Nur. O gentle Aaron, we are all undone !

Now help, or woe betide thee evermore !

Aar. Why, what a caterwauling dost thou keep ?

What dost thou wrap and fumble in thine arms ?

Nur. O, that which I would hide from heaven's

eye,

190

Our emperess' shame, and stately Rome's disgrace ;—

She is deliver'd, lords, she is deliver'd.

Aar. To whom ?

Nur. I mean, she is brought to bed.

Aar. Well, God

Give her good rest ! What hath he sent her !

Nur. A devil.

Aar. Why, then she is the devil's dam ; a joyful issue.

Nur. A joyless, dismal, black, and sorrowful issue :

Here is the babe, as loathsome as a toad

200

Amongst the fairest breeders of our clime.

The emperess' sends it thee, thy stamp, thy seal,

And bids thee christen it with thy dagger's point.

Aar.

Aar. Out, out, you whore! is black so base a hue?—

Sweet blowse, you are a beauteous blossom, sure.

Dem. Villain, what hast thou done?

Aar. That which thou
Can'st not undo.

Chi. Thou hast undone our mother.

Aar. Villain, I have done thy mother. 210

Dem. And therein, hellish dog, thou hast undone.
Woe to her chance, and damn'd her loathed choice!
Accurs'd the offspring of so foul a fiend!

Chi. It shall not live.

Aar. It shall not die.

Nur. Aaron, it must; the mother wills it so.

Aar. What, must it nurse? then let no man, but I,
Do execution on my flesh and blood.

Dem. I'll broach the tadpole on my rapier's point:
Nurse, give it me; my sword shall soon dispatch it.

Aar. Sooner this sword shall plough thy bowels up.
Stay, murderous villains! will you kill your brother?
Now, by the burning tapers of the sky,
That shone so brightly when this boy was got,
He dies upon my scymitar's sharp point,
That touches this my first-born son and heir!
I tell you, younglings, not Enceladus,
With all his threat'ning band of Typhon's brood,
Nor great Alcides, nor the god of war,
Shall seize this prey, out of his father's hands. 230
What, what; ye sanguine shallow-hearted boys!
Ye white-lim'd walls! ye alehouse painted signs!

Coal-

Coal-black is better than another hue,
In that it scorns to bear another hue :
For all the water in the ocean
Can never turn the swan's black legs to white,
Although she lave them hourly in the flood.—
Tell the emperess from me, I am of age
To keep mine own; excuse it how she can. 239

Dem. Wilt thou betray thy noble mistress thus?

Aar. My Mistress is my mistress; this, myself;
The vigour, and the picture of my youth :
This, before all the world, do I prefer;
This, maugre all the world, will I keep safe,
Or some of you shall smoke for it in Rome.

Dem. By this our mother is for ever sham'd.

Chi. Rome will despise her for this foul escape.

Nur. The emperor, in his rage, will doom her
death.

Chi. I blush to think upon this ignomy. 249

Aar. Why there's the privilege your beauty bears :
Fye, treacherous hue ! that will betray with blushing
The close enacts and counsels of the heart !
Here's a young lad fram'd of another leer :
Look, how the black slave smiles upon the father ;
As who should say, *Old lad, I am thine own.*
He is your brother, lords ; sensibly fed
Of that self-blood that first gave life to you ;
And, from that womb, where you imprison'd were,
He is enfranchised and come to light :
Nay, he's your brother by the surer side, 260
Although my seal is stamped in his face.

G

Nur.

Nur. Aaron, what shall I say unto the emperess?

Dem. Advise thee, Aaron, what is to be done,
And we will all subscribe to thy advice;
Save you the child, so we may all be safe.

Aar. Then sit we down, and let us all consult.
My son and I will have the wind of you:
Keep there: Now talk at pleasure of your safety.

[*They sit on the Ground.*]

Dem. How many women saw this child of his?

Aar. Why, so, brave lords; When we all join in
league,

270

I am a lamb: but if you brave the Moor,
The chafed boar, the mountain lioness,
The ocean swells not so as Aaron storms.—
But, say again, how many saw the child?

Nur. Cornelia the midwife, and myself,
And no one else, but the deliver'd emperess.

Aar. The emperess, the midwife, and yourself:—
Two may keep counsel, when the third's away:
Go to the emperess; tell her this I said:—

[*He kills her.*]

Weke, weke!—so cries a pig, prepar'd to the spit.

Dem. What mean'st thou, Aaron? Wherefore did'st
thou this?

281

Aar. O lord, sir, 'tis a deed of policy:
Shall she live to betray this guilt of ours?
A long-tongu'd babbling gossip? no, lords, no.
And now be it known to you my full intent.
Not far, one Muliteus lives, my countryman,
His wife but yesternight was brought to-bed;

His

His child is like to her, fair as you are :
 Go pack with him, and give the mother gold,
 And tell them both the circumstance of all ; 290
 And how by this their child shall be advanc'd,
 And be received for the emperor's heir,
 And substituted in the place of mine,
 To calm this tempest whirling in the court ;
 And let the emperor dandle him for his own.
 Hark ye, my lords ; ye see, I have given her physick,
 [Pointing to the Nurse.

And you must needs bestow her funeral ;
 The fields are near, and you are gallant grooms :
 This done, see that you take no longer days,
 But send the midwife presently to me. 300
 The midwife, and the nurse, well made away,
 Then let the ladies tattle what they please.

Chi. Aaron, I see, thou wilt not trust the air
 With secrets.

Dem. For this care of Tamora,
 Herself, and hers, are highly bound to thee. [Exeunt.

Aar. Now to the Goths, as swift as swallow flies ;
 There to dispose this treasure in my arms,
 And secretly to greet the emperess' friends.—
 Come on, you thick-lip'd slave, I bear you hence ;
 For it is you that puts us to our shifts : 311

I'll make you feed on berries, and on roots,
 And feed on curds and whey, and suck the goat,
 And cabin in a cave ; and bring you up
 To be a warrior, and command a camp. [Exit.

SCENE III.

A Street near the Palace. Enter TITUS, old MARCUS, young LUCIUS, and other Gentleman with Bows; and TITUS bears the Arrows with Letters on the Ends of them.

Tit. Come, Marcus, come;—Kinsmen, this is the way:—

Sir boy, now let me see your archery;
Look, ye draw home enough, and 'tis there straight:
Terras Astrea reliquit:—be you remember'd Marcus.—
She's gone, she's fled.—Sirs, take you to your tools.
You, cousins, shall go sound the ocean, 321
And cast your nets; haply, you may find her in the
sea;

Yet there's as little justice as at land,—
No; Publius and Sempronius, you must do it;
'Tis you must dig with mattock, and with spade,
And pierce the inmost centre of the earth;
Then, when you come to Pluto's region,
I pray you, deliver him this petition:
Tell him, it is for justice, and for aid;
And that it comes from old Andronicus, 330
Shaken with sorrows in ungrateful Rome.—
Ah, Rome!—Well, well; I made thee miserable,
What time I threw the people's suffrages
On him that thus doth tyrannize o'er me.—
Go, get you gone; and pray be careful all,
And leave you not a man of war unsearch'd;

This

This wicked emperor may have shipp'd her hence,
And, kinsmen, then we may go pipe for justice.

Mar. O, Publius, is not this a heavy case,
To see thy noble uncle thus distract? 340

Pub. Therefore, my lord, it highly us concerns,
By day and night to attend him carefully ;
And feed his humour kindly as we may,
'Till time beget some careful remedy.

Mar. Kinsmen, his sorrows are past remedy.
Join with the Goths ; and with revengeful war
Take wreak on Rome for this ingratitude,
And vengeance on the traitor Saturnine.

Tit. Publius, how now ? how now, my masters,
What, have you met with her ? 350

Pub. No, my good lord ; but Pluto sends you
word,

If you will have revenge from hell, you shall :
Marry, for justice, she is so employ'd,
He thinks, with Jove in heaven, or somewhere else,
So that perforce you needs must stay a time.

Tit. He doth me wrong, to feed me with delays.
I'll dive into the burning lake below,
And pull her out of Acheron by the heels. —
330 Marcus, we are but shrubs, no cedars we ;
No big-bon'd men, fram'd of the Cyclops' size ; 360
But metal, Marcus, steel to the very back ;
Yet wrung with wrongs, more than our backs can
bear : —

And sith there is no justice in earth nor hell,
We will solicit heaven ; and move the gods,

To send down justice for to wreak our wrongs :
Come, to this gear. You are a good archer, Marcus.

[*He gives them the Arrows.*]

Ad Jovem, that's for you :—Here, *ad Apollinem* :—

Ad Martem, that's for myself ;—

Here, boy, to Pallas :—Here to Mercury :—

To Saturn, and to Cœlus ; not to Saturnine,— 370

You were as good to shoot against the wind,—

To it, boy. Marcus, loose when I bid :

O' my word, I have written to effect ;

There's not a god left unsolicited.

Mar. Kinsmen, shoot all your shafts into the
court :

We will afflict the emperor in his pride.

Tit. Now, masters, draw [*They shoot.*] O, well said,
Lucius !

Good boy, in virgo's lap, give it to Pallas.

Mar. My lord, I am a mile beyond the moon ;
Your letter is with Jupiter by this. 380

Tit. Ha ! Publius, Publius, what hast thou done ?
See, see, thou hast shot off one of Taurus' horns.

Mar. This was the sport, my lord ; when Publius
shot,

The bull, being gall'd, gave Aries such a knock
That down fell both the ram's horns in the court ;
And who should find them but the emperess' villain ?
She laugh'd, and told the Moor, he should not
choose

But give them to his master for a present.

Tit.

Tit. Why, there it goes : God give your lordship joy !

Enter a Clown, with a Basket and two Pigeons.

News, news from heaven ! Marcus, the post is come.

Sirrah, what tidings ? have you any letters ? 391

Shall I have justice ? what says Jupiter ?

Clown. Ho ! the gibbet-maker ? he says, that he hath taken them down again, for the man must not be hang'd till the next week.

Tit. Tut, what says Jupiter, I ask thee ?

Clown. Alas, sir, I know not Jupiter ; I never drank with him in all my life.

Tit. Why, villain, art not thou the carrier ?

Clown. Ay, of my pigeons, sir ; nothing else. 400

Tit. Why, didst thou not come from heaven ?

Clown. From heaven ? alas, sir, I never came there : God forbid, I should be so bold to press to heaven in my young days. Why, I am going with my pigeons to the tribunal plebs, to take up a matter of brawl betwixt my uncle and one of the imperial's men.

Mar. Why, sir, that is as fit as can be, to serve for your oration ; and let him deliver the pigeons to the emperor from you. 410

Tit. Tell me, can you deliver an oration to the emperor with a grace ?

Clown. Nay, truly, sir, I could never say grace in all my life.

Tit. Sirrah, come hither ; make no more ado,

But

But give your pigeons to the emperor :
 By me thou shalt have justice at his hands.
 Hold, hold ;—mean while, here's money for thy
 charges.

Give me a pen and ink.—

Sirrah, can you with a grace deliver a supplication?

Clown. Ay, sir.

421

Tit. Then here is a supplication for you. And
 when you come to him, at the first approach, you
 must kneel ; then kiss his foot : then deliver up your
 pigeons ; and then look for your reward. I'll be at
 hand, sir ; see you do it bravely.

Clown. I warrant you, sir ; let me alone.

Tit. Sirrah, hast thou a knife ? Come, let me see it.
 Here, Marcus, fold it in the oration ;
 For thou hast made it like an humble suppliant :—
 And when thou hast given it the emperor, 431
 Knock at my door, and tell me what he says.

Clown. God be with you, sir ; I will.

Tit. Come, Marcus, let us go :—Publius, follow
 me.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

*The Palace. Enter Emperor, and Emperess, and her two
 Sons ; the Emperor brings the Arrows in his Hand, that
 TITUS shot.*

Sat. Why, lords, what wrongs are these ? Was
 ever seen

An emperor of Rome thus over-borne,

Troubled, confronted thus ; and, for the extent
 Of legal justice, us'd in such contempt ?
 My lords, you know, as do the mighty gods,
 However the disturbers of our peace 440
 Buz in the people's ears, there nought hath past,
 But even with law, against the wilful sons
 Of old Andronicus. And what an if
 His sorrows have so overwhelm'd his wits,
 Shall we be thus afflicted in his wrecks,
 His fits, his frenzy, and his bitterness ?
 And now he writes to heaven for his redress :
 See, here's to Jove, and this to Mercury ;
 This to Apollo ; this to the god of war :
 Sweet scrolls, to fly about the streets of Rome ! 450
 What's this, but libelling against the senate,
 And blazoning our injustice every where ?
 A goodly humour, is it not, my lords ?
 As who should say, in Rome no justice were.
 But, if I live, his feigned ecstasies
 Shall be no shelter to these outrages :
 But he and his shall know, that justice lives
 In Saturninus' health ; whom, if she sleep,
 He'll so awake, as she in fury shall
 Cut off the proud'st conspirator that lives. 460
Tam. My gracious lord, most lovely Saturnine,
 Lord of my life, commander of my thoughts,
 Calm thee, and bear the faults of Titus' age,
 The effects of sorrow for his valiant sons,
 Whose loss hath pierc'd him deep and scar'd his
 heart ;

And

And rather comfort his distressed plight,
Than prosecute the meanest, or the best,
For these contempts. Why, thus it shall become

[*Aside.*

High-witted Tamora to gloze with all:

But, Titus, I have touch'd thee to the quick, 470
Thy life-blood out: if Aaron now be wise,
Then is all safe, the anchor's in the port.—

Enter Clown.

How now, good fellow? wouldst thou speak with
us?

Clown. Yes, forsooth, an your mistership be em-
perial.

Tit. Emperess I am, but yonder sits the emperor.

Clown. 'Tis he.—God and saint Stephen, give you
good den:

I have brought you a letter, and a couple of pigeon
here.

[*The Emperor reads the Letter.*

Sat. Go, take him away, and hang him presently.

Clown. How much money must I have?

Tam. Come, sirrah, you must be hang'd. 480

Clown. Hang'd! By'r lady, then I have brought
up a neck to a fair end.

[*Exit.*

Sat. Despightful and intolerable wrongs!
Shall I endure this monstrous villainy?

I know from whence this same device proceeds:
May this be borne?—as if his traiterous sons,
That dy'd by law for murder of our brother,
Have by my means been butcher'd wrongfully?—

Go

Go, drag the villain hither by the hair ;
 Nor age, nor honour, shall shape privilege :— 490
 For this proud mock, I'll be thy slaughter-man ;
 Sly frantick wretch, that holp'st to make me great,
 In hope thyself should govern Rome and me.

Enter ÆMILIUS.

Sat. What news with thee, Æmilius ?

Æmil. Arm, arm, my lords ; Rome never had
 more cause !

The Goths have gather'd head ; and with a power
 Of high-resolved men, bent to the spoil,
 They hither march amain, under conduct
 Of Lucius, son to old Andronicus ;
 Who threats, in course of his revenge, to do 500
 As much as ever Coriolanus did.

Sat. Is warlike Lucius general of the Goths ?

These tidings nip me ; and I hang the head
 As flowers with frost, or grass beat down with storms.

Ay, now begin our sorrows to approach :

'Tis he, the common people love so much ;

Myself have often over-heard them say

(When I have walked like a private man),

That Lucius' banishment was wrongfully,

And they have wish'd that Lucius were their em-
 peror. 510

Tam. Why should you fear ? is not our city strong ?

Sat. Ay, but the citizens favour Lucius ;

And will revolt from me, to succour him,

Tam.

Tam. King, be thy thoughts imperious, like thy name.

Is the sun dimm'd, that gnats do fly in it ?
 The eagle suffers little birds to sing,
 And is not careful what they mean thereby ;
 Knowing, that with the shadow of his wings,
 He can at pleasure stint their melody :
 Even so may'st thou the giddy men of Rome. 520
 Then cheer thy spirit : for know, thou emperor,
 I will enchant the old Andronicus,
 With words more sweet, and yet more dangerous,
 Than baits to fish, or honey-stalks to sheep ;
 When as the one is wounded with the bait,
 The other rotted with delicious feed.

Sat. But he will not entreat his son for us.

Tam. If Tamora entreat him, then he will :
 For I can smooth, and fill his aged ear
 With golden promises ; that were his heart 530
 Almost impregnable, his old ears deaf,
 Yet should both ear and heart obey my tongue.—
 Go thou before, be our ambassador : [To ÆMILIUS
 Say, that the emperor requests a parley
 Of warlike Lucius, and appoint the meeting.

Sat. Æmilius, do this message honourably :
 And if he stand on hostage for his safety,
 Bid him demand what pledge will please him best.

Æmil. Your bidding shall I do effectually. [Exit

Tam. Now will I to that old Andronicus ; 540
 And temper him with all the art I have,
 To pluck proud Lucius from the warlike Goths.

And

And now, sweet emperor, be blith again,
And bury all thy fear in my devices.

Sat. Then go successfully, and plead to him.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT V. SCENE I.

The Camp, at a small Distance from Rome. Enter LUCIUS and Goths, with Drum and Soldiers.

Lucius.

APPROVED warriors, and my faithful friends,
I have received letters from great Rome,
Which signify, what hate they bear their emperor,
And how desirous of our sight they are.
Therefore, great lords, be, as your titles witness,
Imperious, and impatient of your wrongs;
And, wherein Rome hath done you any scath,
Let him make treble satisfaction.

Goth. Brave slip, sprung from the great Andronicus,

Whose name was once our terror, now our comfort;
Whose high exploits, and honourable deeds, 11
Ingrateful Rome requites with foul contempt,
Be bold in us: we'll follow where thou lead'st,—
Like stinging bees in hottest summer's day,
Led by their master to the flower'd fields,—
And be aveng'd on cursed Tamora.

H

Omn.

Omn. And, as he saith, so say we all with him.

Luc. I humbly thank him, and I thank you all.
But who comes here, led by a lusty Goth?

Enter a Goth, leading AARON, with his Child in his Arms.

Goth. Renowned Lucius, from our troops I stray'd,
To gaze upon a ruinous monastery; 21
And as I earnestly did fix mine eye
Upon the wasted building, suddenly
I heard a child cry underneath a wall:
I made unto the noise; when soon I heard
The crying babe control'd with this discourse:
Peace, tawny slave; half me, and half thy dam!
Did not thy hue bewray whose brat thou art,
Had nature lent thee but thy mother's look,
Villain thou might'st have been an emperor: 30
But where the bull and cow are both milk-white,
They never do beget a coal-black calf.
Peace, villain, peace!—even thus he rates the babe,—
For I must bear thee to a trusty Goth;
Who, when he knows thou art the emperess' babe,
Will hold thee dearly for thy mother's sake.
With this, my weapon drawn, I rush'd upon him,
Surpris'd him suddenly; and brought him hither,
To use as you think needful of the man.

Luc. O worthy Goth! this is the incarnate devil,
That robb'd Andronicus of his good hand: 41
This is the pearl that pleas'd your emperess' eye;
And here's the base fruit of his burning lust.—

Say, wall-ey'd slave, whither would'st thou convey
This growing image of thy fiend-like face?
Why dost not speak? What! deaf? No! not a
word?

A halter, soldiers; hang him on this tree,
And by his side his fruit of bastardy.

Aar. Touch not the boy, he is of royal blood.

Luc. Too like the sire for ever being good.— 50

First hang the child, that he may see it sprawl;

A sight to vex the father's soul withal.

Get me a ladder.

Aar. Lucius, save the child;

And bear it from me to the emperess.

If thou do this, I'll show thee wondrous things,

That highly may advantage thee to hear:

If thou wilt not, befall what may befall,

I'll speak no more; But vengeance rot you all!

Luc. Say on; and, if it please me which thou
speak'st, 60

Thy child shall live, and I will see it nourish'd.

Aar. An if it please thee? why, assure thee,
Lucius,

'Twill vex thy soul to hear what I shall speak;

For I must talk of murders, rapes, and massacres,

Acts of black night, abominable deeds,

Complots of mischief, treason; villanies

Ruthful to hear, yet piteously perform'd:

And this shall all be buried by my death,

Unless thou swear to me, my child shall live. 69

Luc. Tell on thy mind; I say, thy child shall live.

Hij

Aar.

Aar. Swear, that he shall, and then I will begin.

Luc. Who should I swear by? thou believ'st no god;

That granted, how can'st thou believe an oath?

Aar. What if I do not? as, indeed, I do not:
Yet,—for I know thou art religious,
And hast a thing within thee, called conscience;
With twenty popish tricks and ceremonies,
Which I have seen thee careful to observe,—
Therefore I urge thy oath;—For that, I know,
An idiot holds his bauble for a god, 80
And keeps the oath, which by that god he swears;
To that I'll urge him:—Therefore, thou shalt vow
By that same god, what god soe'er it be,
That thou ador'st and hast in reverence,—
To save my boy, nourish, and bring him up;
Or else I will discover nought to thee.

Luc. Even by my god, I swear to thee, I will.

Aar. First, know thou, I begot him on the emperess.

Luc. O most insatiate, luxurious woman!

Aar. Tut, Lucius! this was but a deed of charity,
To that which thou shalt hear of me anon. 91

'Twas her two sons, that murder'd Bassianus:
They cut thy sister's tongue, and ravish'd her,
And cut her hands off; and trimm'd her as thou
saw'st.

Luc. O, detestable villain! call'st thou that
trimming?

Aar.

Aar. Why, she was wash'd, and cut, and trimm'd;
and 'twas

Trim sport for them that had the doing of it.

Luc. O, barbarous beastly villains, like thyself!

Aar. Indeed, I was the tutor to instruct them:
That coddling spirit had they from their mother, 100
As sure a card as ever won the set;
That bloody mind, I think, they learn'd of me,
As true a dog as ever fought at head.—

Well, let my deeds be witness of my worth.

I train'd thy brethren to that guileful hole,

Where the dead corps of Bassianus lay:

I wrote the letter that thy father found,

And hid the gold within the letter mention'd,

Confederate with the queen, and her two sons:

And what not done, that thou hast cause to rue, 110

Wherein I had no stroke of mischief in it?

I play'd the cheater for thy father's hand;

And, when I had it, drew myself apart,

And almost broke my heart with extreme laughter.

I pry'd me through the crevice of a wall,

When, for his hand, he had his two son's heads;

Beheld his tears, and laugh'd so heartily,

That both mine eyes were rainy like to his;

And when I told the emperess of this sport,

She swooned almost at my pleasing tale, 120

And, for my tidings, gave me twenty kisses.

Goth. What! canst thou say all this, and never
blush?

Aar. Ay, like a black dog, as the saying is.

Luc. Art thou not sorry for these heinous deeds?

Aar. Ay, that I had not done a thousand more.

Even now I curse the day (and yet, I think,

Few come within the compass of my curse),

Wherein I did not some notorious ill :

As kill a man, or else devise his death ;

Ravish a maid, or plot the way to do it ;

130

Accuse some innocent, and forswear myself :

Set deadly enmity between two friends ;

Make poor men's cattle break their necks ;

Set fire on barns and hay-stacks in the night,

And bid the owners quench them with their tears.

Oft have I digg'd up dead men from their graves,

And set them upright at their dear friends' doors

Even when the sorrow almost was forgot ;

And on their skins, as on the bark of trees,

Have with my knife carved in Roman letters,

140

Let not your sorrow die, though I am dead.

Tut, I have done a thousand dreadful things,

As willingly as one would kill a fly ;

And nothing grieves me heartily indeed,

But that I cannot do ten thousand more.

Luc. Bring down the devil ; for he must not die

So sweet a death, as hanging presently.

Aar. If there be devils, 'would I were a devil,

To live and burn in everlasting fire ;

So I might have your company in hell,

150

But to torment you with my bitter tongue !

Luc. Sirs, stop his mouth, and let him speak no
more.

Enter

Enter ÆMILIUS.

Goth. My lord, there is a messenger from Rome,
Desires to be admitted to your presence.

Luc. Let him come near.

Welcome, Æmilius, what's the news from Rome?

Æmil. Lord Lucius, and you princes of the Goths,
The Roman emperor greets you all by me :
And, for he understands you are in arms,
He craves a parley at your father's house ; 160
Willing you to demand your hostages,
And they shall be immediately deliver'd.

Goth. What says our general ?

Luc. Æmilius, let the emperor give his pledges
Unto my father and my uncle Marcus,
And we will come. March away. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

*Titus's Palace in Rome. Enter TAMORA, CHIRON,
and DEMETRIUS, disguised.*

Tam. Thus, in this strange and sad habiliment,
I will encounter with Andronicus ;
And say, I am Revenge, sent from below,
To join with him, and right his heinous wrongs. 170
Knock at his study, where, they say, he keeps,
To ruminate strange plots of dire revenge;

Tell

Tell him, Revenge is come to join with him,
And work confusion on his enemies.

[*They knock, and TITUS opens his Study Door.*]

Tit. Who doth molest my contemplation?
Is it your trick to make me ope the door;
That so my sad decrees may fly away,
And all my study be to no effect?
You are deceiv'd: for what I mean to do,
See here in bloody lines I have set down; 180
And what is written shall be executed.

Tam. Titus, I am come to talk with thee.

Tit. No; not a word: How can I grace my talk,
Wanting a hand to give it that accord?
Thou hast the odds of me, therefore no more.

Tam. If thou did'st know me, thou would'st talk
with me.

Tit. I am not mad; I know thee well enough:
Witness this wretched stump, these crimson lines;
Witness these trenches, made by grief and care;
Witness the tiring day, and heavy night; 190
Witness all sorrow, that I know thee well
For our proud emperess, mighty Tamora:
Is not thy coming for my other hand?

Tam. Know thou, sad man, I am not Tamora;
She is thy enemy, and I thy friend:
I am Revenge; sent from the infernal kingdom,
To ease the gnawing vulture of thy mind.
By working wreakful vengeance on thy foes.
Come down, and welcome me to this world's light;
Confer with me of murder and of death: 200

There's

There's not a hollow cave, nor lurking-place,
No vast obscurity, or misty vale,
Where bloody murder, or detested rape,
Can couch for fear, but I will find them out ;
And in their ears tell them my dreadful name,
Revenge, which makes the foul offenders quake.

Tit. Art thou Revenge? and art thou sent to me,
To be a torment to mine enemies?

Tam. I am; therefore come down, and welcome
me.

Tit. Do me some service, ere I come to thee. 210
Lo, by thy side where Rape, and Murder, stands ;
Now give some 'surance that thou art Revenge,
Stab them, or tear them on thy chariot wheels;
And then I'll come, and be thy waggoner,
And whirl along with thee about the globes.
Provide two proper palfries, black as jet,
To hale thy vengeful waggon swift away,
And find out murderers in their guilty caves :
And, when thy car is loaden with their heads,
I will dismount, and by the waggon wheel 220
Trot, like a servile footman, all day long ;
Even from Hyperion's rising in the east,
Until his very downfal in the sea.
And day by day I'll do this heavy task,
So thou destroy Rapine and Murder there.

Tam. These are my ministers, and come with me.

Tit. Are they thy ministers? what are they call'd?

Tam. Rapine, and Murder: therefore called so,
'Cause they take vengeance on such kind of men.

Tit.

Tit. Good lord, how like the emperess' sons they
are! 230

And you, the emperess! But we worldly men
Have miserable, mad, mistaking eyes.

O sweet Revenge, now do I come to thee:
And, if one arm's embracement will content thee,
I will embrace thee in it by and by.

[Exit TITUS from above.]

Tam. This closing with him fits his lunacy:
Whate'er I forge, to feed his brain-sick fits,
Do you uphold and maintain in your speeches.
For now he firmly takes me for Revenge;
And, being credulous in this mad thought, 240
I'll make him send for Lucius, his son;
And whilst I at a banquet hold him sure,
I'll find some cunning practice out of hand,
To scatter and disperse the giddy Goths,
Or, at the least, make them his enemies.
See, here he comes, and I must ply my theme.

Enter TITUS.

Tit. Long have I been forlorn, and all for thee:
Welcome, dread fury, to my woeful house;—
Rapine, and Murder, you are welcome too:—
How like the emperess and her sons you are! 250
Well are you fitted, had you but a Moor:—
Could not all hell afford you such a devil?—
For, well I wot, the emperess never wags,
But in her company there is a Moor;
And, would you represent our queen aright,

It were convenient you had such a devil :

But welcome, as you are. What shall we do ?

Tam. What wouldst thou have us do, Andronicus ?

Dem. Shew me a murderer, I'll deal with him.

Chi. Shew me a villain, that hath done a rape, 260
And I am sent to be reveng'd on him.

Tam. Shew me a thousand, that have done thee
wrong,

And I will be revenged on them all.

Tit. Look round about the wicked streets of
Rome ;

And when thou find'st a man that's like thyself,

240 Good Murder, stab him ; he's a murderer.—

Go thou with him ; and, when it is thy hap,

To find another that is like to thee,

Good Rapine, stab him ; he is a ravisher.—

Go thou with them ; and in the emperor's court 270

There is a queen, attended by a Moor ;

Well may'st thou know her by thy own proportion,

For up and down she doth resemble thee ;

I pray thee, do on them some violent death,

ee: They have been violent to me and mine.

Tam. Well hast thou lesson'd us ; this shall we do.

But would it please thee, good Andronicus,

250 To send for Lucius, thy thrice valiant son,

Who leads towards Rome a band of warlike Goths,

And bid him come and banquet at thy house : 280

When he is here, even at thy solemn feast,

I will bring in the emperess and her sons,

The emperor himself, and all thy foes ;

And

And at thy mercy shall they stoop and kneel,
And on them shalt thou ease thy angry heart.
What says Andronicus to this device ?

Tit. Marcus, my brother !—'tis sad Titus calls.

Enter MARCUS.

Go, gentle Marcus, to thy nephew Lucius ;
Thou shalt inquire him out among the Goths :
Bid him repair to me, and bring with him 299
Some of the chiefest princes of the Goths ;
Bid him encamp his soldiers where they are :
Tell him, the emperor and the emperess too
Feast at my house ; and he shall feast with them.
This do thou for my love ; and so let him,
As he regards his aged father's life.

Mar. This will I do, and soon return again.

[Exit.

Tam. Now will I hence about thy business,
And take my ministers along with me.

Tit. Nay, nay, let Rape and Murder stay with
me ; 300

Or else I'll call my brother back again,
And cleave to no revenge but Lucius.

Tam. *[to her Sons.]* What say you, boys ? will you
abide with him,

Whiles I go tell my lord the emperor,
How I have govern'd our determin'd jest ?
Yield to his humour, smooth and speak him fair,
And tarry with him 'till I come again.

Tit.

Tit. I know them all though they suppose me mad ;
And will o'er-reach them in their own devices,
A pair of cursed hell-hounds, and their dam. 310

[*Aside.*

Dem. Madam, depart at pleasure, leave us here.

Tam. Farewel, Andronicus ; Revenge now goes
To lay a complot to betray thy foes. [*Exit. TAM.*

Tit. I know, thou dost ; and, sweet Revenge,
farewel.

Chi. Tell us, old man, how shall we be employ'd ?

Tit. Tut, I have work enough for you to do.—
Publius, come hither, Caius, and Valentine !

Enter PUBLIUS, and Servants.

Pub. What is your will ?

Tit. Know you these two ?

Pub. The emperess' sons, 320

I take them, Chiron, and Demetrius.

Tit. Fye, Publius, fye ! thou art too much de-
ceiv'd ;

The one is Murder, Rape is the other's name :

And therefore bind them, gentle Publius ;

Caius, and Valentine, lay hands on them :

Oft have you heard me wish for such an hour,

And now I find it : therefore bind them sure ;

And stop their mouths, if they begin to cry.

[*Exit TITUS.*

Chi. Villains, forbear ; we are the emperess' sons.

Pub. And therefore do we what we are com-
manded.— 330

I

Stop

Stop close their mouths, let them not speak a word :
Is he sure bound ? look, that you bind them fast.

Re-enter TITUS ANDRONICUS with a Knife, and LAVINIA with a Bason.

Tit. Come, come, Lavinia ; look thy foes are
bound :—

Sirs, stop their mouths, let them not speak to me ;
But let them hear what fearful words I utter.—

O villains, Chiron and Demetrius !

Here stands the spring whom you have stain'd with
mud ;

This goodly summer with your winter mix'd.
You kill'd her husband ; and, for, that vile fault,
Two of her brothers were condemn'd to death : 340
My hand cut off, and made a merry jest :
Both her sweet hands, her tongue, and that, more
dear

Than hands or tongue, her spotless chastity,
Inhuman traitors, you constrain'd and forc'd.
What would you say, if I should let you speak ?
Villains, for shame you could not beg for grace.
Hark, wretches, how I mean to martyr you.

This one hand yet is left to cut your throats ;
Whilst that Lavinia 'twixt her stumps doth hold
The bason, that receives your guilty blood. 350

You know, your mother means to feast with me,
And calls herself Revenge, and thinks me mad,—
Hark, villains ; I will grind your bones to dust,
And with your blood and it I'll make a paste ;

And

And of the paste a coffin will I rear,
 And make two pasties of your shameful heads;
 And bid that strumpet, your unhallow'd dam,
 Like to the earth, swallow her own increase.
 This is the feast that I have bid her to,
 And this the banquet she shall surfeit on; 360
 For worse than Philomel you us'd my daughter,
 And worse than Progne I will be reveng'd:
 And now prepare your throats.—Lavinia, come,
 Receive the blood: and, when that they are dead,
 Let me go grind their bones to powder small,
 And with this hateful liquor temper it;
 And in that paste let their vile heads be bak'd.
 Come, come, be every one officious
 To make this banquet; which I wish might prove
 More stern and bloody than the Centaur's feast. 370
 [He cuts their Throats.
 So, now bring them in, for I will play the cook,
 And see them ready 'gainst their mother comes.
 [Exeunt.

SCENE III.

Enter LUCIUS, MARCUS, and Goths, with AARON
 Prisoner.

Luc. Uncle Marcus, since it is my father's mind,
 That I repair to Rome, I am content.

Goth. And ours with thine, befall what fortune
 will.

I i j

Luc.

Luc. Good uncle, take you in this barbarous Moor,

This ravenous tiger, this accursed devil;
Let him receive no sustenance, fetter him,
Till he be brought unto the emperor's face,
For testimony of these foul proceedings:
And see the ambush of our friends be strong;
I fear, the emperor means no good to us.

380

Aar. Some devil whisper curses in mine ear,
And prompt me, that my tongue may utter forth
The venomous malice of my swelling heart!

Luc. Away, inhuman dog! unhallow'd slave!—

[*Exeunt Goths, with AARON.*

Sirs, help our uncle to convey him in.— [*Flourish.*
The trumpets shew, the emperor is at hand.

Sound Trumpets. Enter SATURNINUS and TAMORA,
with Tribunes and others.

Sat. What, hath the firmament more suns than one?

Luc. What boots it thee to call thyself a sun? 390

Mar. Rome's emperor, and nephew, break the
parle;

These quarrels must be quietly debated.

The feast is ready, which the careful Titus

Hath ordained to an honourable end,

For peace, for love, for league, and good to
Rome:

Please

Please you, therefore, draw nigh, and take your places.

Sat. Marcus, we will.

[Hautboys.

A Table brought in. Enter TITUS, like a Cook, placing the Meat on the Table, and LAVINIA, with a Veil over her Face.

Tit. Welcome, my gracious lord ; welcome, dread queen ;

Welcome, ye warlike Goths ; welcome, Lucius ;
And welcome, all : although the cheer be poor, 400
'Twill fill your stomachs ; please you eat of it.

Sat. Why art thou thus attir'd, Andronicus ?

Tit. Because I would be sure to have all well,
To entertain your highness, and your emperess.

Tam. We are beholden to you, good Andronicus.

Tit. An if your highness knew my heart, you
were.

My lord the emperor, resolve me this ;

Was it well done of rash Virginius,

To slay his daughter with his own right hand,

Because she was enforc'd, stain'd, and deflower'd ?

Sat. It was, Andronicus.

411

Tit. Your reason, mighty lord ?

Sat. Because the girl should not survive her
shame,

And by her presence still renew his sorrows.

Tit. A reason mighty, strong, and effectual ;

A pattern, precedent, and lively warrant,

For me, most wretched, to perform the like :—

I i j

Die,

Die, die, Lavinia, and thy shame with thee;
And, with thy shame, thy father's sorrow die!

[*He kills her.*

Sat. What hast thou done, unnatural, and unkind?
420

Tit. Kill'd her, for whom my tears have made me blind.

I am as woeful as Virginius was:

And have a thousand times more cause than he
To do this outrage;—and it is now done.

Sat. What, was she ravished? tell, who did the deed.

Tit. Will't please you eat? will't please your highness feed?

Tam. Why hast thou slain thine only daughter thus?

Tit. Not I; 'twas Chiron, and Demetrius:
They ravish'd her, and cut away her tongue,
And they, 'twas they, that did her all this wrong.

Sat. Go, fetch them hither to us presently. 431

Tit. Why, there they are both, baked in that pye;
Whereof their mother daintily hath fed,
Eating the flesh that she herself hath bred.

'Tis true, 'tis true; witness my knife's sharp point.

[*He stabs TAMORA.*

Sat. Die, frantick wretch, for this accursed deed.

[*He stabs TITUS.*

Luc. Can the son's eye behold his father bleed?
There's meed for meed, death for a deadly deed.

LUCIUS stabs SATURNINUS.

Alar.

Mar. You sad fac'd men, people and sons of Rome,

By uproar sever'd, like a flight of fowl 440

Scatter'd by winds and high-tempestuous gusts,

O, let me teach you how to knit again

This scatter'd corn into one mutual sheaf,

These broken limbs again into one body.

Goth. Let Rome herself be bane unto herself;

And she, whom mighty kingdoms curtsy to,

Like a forlorn and desperate cast-away,

Do shameful execution on herself.

Mar. But if my frosty signs and chaps of age,

Grave witnesses of true experience, 450

Cannot induce you to attend my words,—

Speak, Rome's dear friend; as erst our ancestor,

[To *LUCIUS*.

When with his solemn tongue he did discourse,

To love-sick *Dido*'s sad attending ear,

The story of that baleful burning night,

When subtle Greeks surpriz'd king *Priam*'s Troy;

Tell us, what *Sinon* hath bewitch'd our ears,

Or who hath brought the fatal engine in,

That gives our Troy, our Rome, the civil wound.—

My heart is not compact of flint, nor steel; 460

Nor can I utter all our bitter grief,

But floods of tears will drown my oratory,

And break my very utterance; even in the time

When it should move you to attend me most.

Lending your kind commiseration:

Here is a captain, let him tell the tale;

Your

Your hearts will throb and weep to hear him speak.

Luc. Then, noble auditory, be it known to you,
That cursed Chiron and Demetrius
Were they that murdered our emperor's brother ;
And they it was, that ravished our sister : 471
For their fell faults our brothers were beheaded ;
Our father's tears despis'd ; and basely cozen'd
Of that true hand, that fought Rome's quarrel out,
And sent her enemies unto the grave.
Lastly, myself unkindly banished,
The gates shut on me, and turn'd weeping out,
To beg relief among Rome's enemies ;
Who drown'd their enmity in my true tears,
And op'd their arms to embrace me as a friend : 480
And I am the turn'd-forth, be it known to you,
That have preserv'd her welfare in my blood ;
And from her bosom took the enemy's point,
Sheathing the steel in my advent'rous body.
Alas ! you know, I am no vaunter, I ;
My scars can witness, dumb although they are,
That my report is just, and full of truth.
But, soft methinks, I do digress too much,
Citing my worthless praise : O, pardon me :
For when no friends are by, men praise themselves.

Mar. Now is my turn to speak ; behold this
child, 491

Of this was Tamora delivered ;
The issue of an irreligious Moor,
Chief architect and plotter of these woes ;
The villain is alive in Titus' house,

And

And as he is, to witness this is true.
Now judge, what cause had Titus to revenge
These wrongs, unspeakable, past patience,
Or more than any living man could bear.

Now you have heard the truth, what say you, Ro-
mans ? 500

Have we done aught amiss ? Shew us wherein,
And, from the place where you behold us now,
The poor remainder of Andronici
Will, hand in hand, all headlong cast us down,
And on the ragged stones beat forth our brains,
And make a mutual closure of our house.
Speak, Romans, speak : and, if you say, we shall,
Lo, hand in hand, Lucius and I will fall.

Æmil. Come, come, thou reverend man of Rome,
And bring our emperor gently in thy hand, 510
Lucius our emperor ; for, well I know,
The common voice do cry, it shall be so.

Mar. Lucius, all hail ; Rome's royal emperor !
Go, go into old Titus' sorrowful house ;
And hither hale that misbelieving Moor,
To be adjudg'd some direful slaughtering death,
As punishment for his most wicked life,
Lucius, all hail, Rome's gracious governor !

Luc. Thanks, gentle Romans ; May I govern so,
To heal Rome's harms, and wipe away her woe ! 520
But, gentle people, give me aim a while,—
For nature puts me to a heavy task ;—
Stand all aloof ;—but, uncle, draw you near,
To shed obsequious tears upon this trunk :—

O, take

O, take this warm kiss on thy pale cold lips,

[Kisses Titus.]

These sorrowful drops upon thy blood-stain'd face,
The last true duties of thy noble son!

Mar. Ay, tear for tear, and loving kiss for kiss,
Thy brother Marcus tenders on thy lips:

O, were the sum of these that I should pay 530
Countless and infinite, yet would I pay them!

Luc. Come hither, boy; come, come, and learn
of us

To melt in showers: Thy grandsire lov'd thee
well:

Many a time he danc'd thee on his knee,
Sung thee asleep, his loving breast thy pillow;
Many a matter hath he told to thee,
Meet, and agreeing with thine infancy;
In that respect then, like a loving child,
Shed yet some small drops from thy tender spring,
Because kind nature doth require it so: 540
Friends should associate friends in grief and woe:
Bid him farewell; commit him to the grave;
Do him that kindness, and take leave of him.

Boy. O grandsire, grandsire! even with all my
heart

'Would I were dead, so you did live again!—
O lord, I cannot speak to him for weeping;
My tears will choak me, if I ope my mouth.

Enter

Enter Romans, with AARON.

Rom. You sad Andronici, have done with woes ;
Give sentence on this execrable wretch,
That hath been breeder of these dire events. 550

Luc. Set him breast-deep in earth, and furnish
him ;

There let him stand, and rave and cry for food :

If any one relieves or pities him,

For the offence he dies. This is our doom :

Some stay, to see him fasten'd in the earth.

Aar. O, why should wrath be mute, and fury
dumb ?

I am no baby, I, that, with base prayers,

I should repent the evils I have done ;

Ten thousand, worse than ever yet I did,

Would I perform, if I might have my will : 560

If one good deed in all my life I did,

I do repent it from my very soul.

Luc. Some loving friends convey the emperor
hence,

And give him burial in his father's grave :

My father, and Lavinia, shall forthwith

Be closed in our household's monument.

As for that heinous tyger, Tamora,

No funeral rites, nor man in mournful weeds,

No mournful bell shall ring her burial ;

But throw her forth to beasts, and birds of prey :

Her life was beast-like, and devoid of pity ; 571

And, being so, shall have like want of pity.

See

See justice done on Aaron, that damn'd Moor,
From whom our heavy haps had their beginning:
Then, afterwards, to order well the state;
That like events may ne'er it ruin.

[*Exeunt omnes*]

THE END.



